Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Happy New Year!

Volume 18, No. 1
JANUARY 1998

Star rises in NY

Two Columbia University journalism alumni launched a monthly New York newspaper, *Black Star News*, one year after the *City Sun* set after 12 years of publishing.

Milton G. Allimadi, '92, and Mana Lumumba-Kasongo, '96, worked at the *City Sun* until its end then made plans for a new paper.

According to a *New York Times* account Oct. 29 Bill Cosby was the lone investor of 50 contacted. Cos and wife Camille sent a check."It was pleasantly shocking," Allimadi said, adding the money was enough to cover initial editorial production and distribution costs. The initial October press run of 20,000 copies hit nearly 900 newsstands.

Black Star News presents a tabloid-style red, black and white front page with a lead story and teases to top stories inside. Editorials and letters are on page 2. Two, 28 page issues we received carried a mix of arts, economic, health, religion and political news.

The BLACKSTAR News

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1997 Reviewed

Single triumphs, business as usual for masses

By **Cheryl Devall**

This was a signal year for some of the highest-profile African-Americans:

• Michael Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to another NBA championship.

• Tiger Woods won the Masters golf tournament, and both pursued their more lucrative product endorsements.

• Oprah decided to continue as a daily guest in countless American homes.

• Wynton Marsalis was awarded the first Pulitzer Prize given to a jazz composition for his oratorio "Blood on the Fields."

• Babyface Edwards and crew topped the pop charts and crossed over from music to film production with "Soul Food," which filled theaters from coast to coast with black folks talking back to the screen.

• And producer Debbie Allen shepherded an inspiring, underreported chapter in American history, the Amistad rebellion, toward the big-screen treatment it deserves.

But as is so often the case, the most prominent black successes coincided with dismal business as usual for the masses. They tried in large numbers, to address persistent intertwined problems – the dearth of available jobs, the torpedoing of the federal safety net, inadequate education and shorter life expectancy.

In February, Miami was the scene of an African-American "blackout," in which people skipped one day at work and school for a peaceful downtown rally.

> The near-fatal beating of Abner Louima at the hands of police prompted realization that some residents pay disproportionately for the lower crime rate other New Yorkers enjoy.

On a much larger scale, October's Million Woman March drew demonstrators with a wide range of causes to Philadelphia. The grass-roots nature of this event inspired those who came and observed. March organizers decided not to court the news media, but that was no excuse for most news outlets to give short-shrift to a fascinating and potentially far-reaching event.

In New York City, the near-fatal beating of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima at the hands of police prompted a wider realization that some residents pay disproportionately for the lower crime rate other New Yorkers enjoy. The outrage over police power run amok nearly translated into a Democratic primary victory for Rev. Al Sharpton. But that

Continued on page 3

Definitions matter, especially on a map

Shame on U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen for distorting geography.

On Dec. 5, I ducked out of the office for 10 minutes. I tuned in to NPR in my car.

The "Talk of the Nation" topic was land mines and the United States being one of the only hold outs to sign the international treaty. A caller questioned how the USA could be so stubborn when it has saturated Africa with weapons.

WAYNE DAWKINS Commentary

Not so, said Cohen.

The caller was well read or some policy wonk: What about Morocco? The caller knew of recent U.S. military aid to that country.

Morocco isn't in Africa, said Cohen.

Say what? That was me shouting at the car stereo.

The caller was calm and undeterred. Morocco *is* in Africa.

Well, said Cohen, I mean black Africa.

The secretary spent of rest of the exchange referring to "Sub-Saharan Africa."

OK, it was a brief talk show exchange after 2 p.m. (EST) that a small audience heard. But the skirmish over geography bugged me. Of course Morocco is in Africa. It's not ambiguous like Israel, which World Almanac maps place in Asia but I like the encyclopedia definition: Located on the Afro Eurasian peninsula.

The fact remains that Africa, north. central and south, is littered with guns, bombs and land mines left over from decades of struggle between the USA and its allies vs. the communist bloc. Africa was the Cold War surrogate battlefield.

It still is. As new leaders take the reins or mayhem reigns there are plenty of weapons to slaughter people. Just try keeping up with body counts in Rwanda, the former Zaire and other countries.

Definitions matter. Last year I read that quietly the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service no longer classify Egyptians who settle here "white." A brown-skinned Egyptian who came here protested his classification and sued.

It is time to update old thinking. In teaching history here for generations it was implied that Egypt was not part of Africa. But of course it is.

For those who know better it's time to clear our throats and make sure people in power know where the geographic pieces fit. Or if they assume we're ignorant or apathetic, remind them we're not.

Jobline

WHYY TV12 and 91FM seeks a **membership manager, development.** Reponsibilities include large-scale, highly segmented direct mail fund raising campaigns totaling over 1 million pieces, strict adherence to production schedules and assist in developing budgets and revenue goals. Send resume to Deborah Palmer, 150 N. Sixth St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. . . The *Post-Tribune* in Gary, Ind. seeks **reporters** to cover local news from offices in Crown Point and a news **features reporter.** Minimum three years daily experience Send resume, cover letter and writing samples to Kay Manning, executive editor, 1065 Broadway, Gary, Ind. 46402. . . Have a voice. Work days. Really edit copy. *The News-Sentinel*, a six-day Knight-Ridder p.m. in a strong market, seeks a **copy editor** for its universal copy desk. We need an editor who knows news, cares about how a story's elements work together to affect readers, and who can and will improve stories and packages. Send resume to Mark Thompson-Kolar, assis-tant managing editor, *The News-Sentinel*, 600 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Or call (219) 461-8713.

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Budget Update

Balance before July 1997 issue	**$-132**
Revenues, June 16 to Dec. 15, 1997	386
Subtotal	254
Expenses: printing, postage, June to December 1997	416
Balance before July 1997 issue	**$ -162**

Expenses are down $131 from the July report, so is revenues, $51. We returned to a 3-column layout that uses space better allows us to bring more news. In 1998 we want to erase a temporary deficit and grow. But we need your help. If your subscription lapsed please renew. If you've moved, update your address. WJD

1997 Reviewed

Continued from page 1

momentum dissipated and minority voter participation declined sharply. That meant a second term for Republican Rudolph Guiliani, aided by opportunistic African-Americans including U.S. Rep. Floyd Flake.

Another prominent New Yorker, longtime NAACP leader Hazel Dukes, was one of four people removed from the national board for alleged financial misdeeds. Dukes' ouster reportedly had to do with association funds, while the use of money belonging to the nation's largest African-American denominations has investigators hot on the trail of the Rev. Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention.

In a tale that reflects the worst stereotypes about black ministers, Lyons is suspected of using denomination funds to purchase a luxury house, cars and jewelry with a felonious woman who is not his wife. The story came, literally, to light when Mrs. Deborah Lyons performed a "Waiting to Exhale"-style torch job on the disputed property. She's pleaded guilty to arson but has since stood silently by her man. And, despite the protestations of some faithful Baptists including New York *Daily News* columnist E.R. Shipp, representatives of the eight-million member denomination have also stood by Lyons, returning him to the presidency by acclimation. Since that vote of confidence, however, new evidence against Lyons piles up almost by the day, raising disturbing questions about the judgment, accountability and integrity of those we look for leadership.

On the affirmative action front, there were losses, a significant win and an even more significant stalemate – at least for the moment. Courts upheld the elimination of race as a factor in admissions to state universities in Texas and California. the imposition of Proposition 209 in California was widely regarded as the reason only one African-American accepted admission to the University of California Law School. Admissions officers across the nation are now scrambling to determine ways they can defend in the present legal climate to attract racially diverse pools of applicants to their schools.

But affirmative action is not yet down for the count. Voters in Houston chose to maintain minority and female set-asides in city contracts after the mayor and other civic leaders argued that racial and gender inclusion is good business. And a likely landmark Supreme Court case over affirmative action hiring and firing in the Piscataway, N.J. public schools was settled with cash from civil rights organizations eager to fight before the high court another day.

African-Americans factored only sporadically in other policy matters. A steadfast advocate of butter over guns, Rep. Ron Dellums, D-Calif., chose not to run for re-election – exhausted perhaps, by the federal government's final renunciation of responsibility for the poor. Probes into campaign finances slandered many Asian-American donors just beginning to feel their political clout. But black people were most notable for our absence from the campaign finance scene; apparently we aren't directing enough of our wealth to warrant the attention of most elected officials. Instead of action on present grievances we got apologies, delivered or publicly considered, for past wrongs including the Tuskegee syphilis experiments and slavery, as well as another round of the national dialogue on race minus the provocative thinking of a Lani Guinier.

Perhaps the saddest convergence of the crises familiar to black Americans ended with the death in June of Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X. Shabazz had demonstrated great persistence and courage in the public eye during the 32 years since her husband's assassination. But she'd also fought so many of the private battles shared by countless, unsung black women – maintaining her faith and her dignity, getting an education, rearing first her own children and then a grandchild. When that 12-year-old grandchild, Malcolm's namesake, set the fire which eventually killed Betty Shabazz, black women and men responded with the prayers and tributes and grief of people who know too well how close to the edge all of us still live.

Betty Shabazz fought many of the private battles shared by unsung black women – maintaining her faith and her dignity, getting an education, rearing first her own children and then a grandchild.

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Empathy in the least-expected places

Miami is a very different town politically than Chicago.

When I moved here a year ago, it struck me immediately as much less civic-minded – a high voter turnout is 35 percent. And the most consistent voters, Cuban-Americans who came here with the rise of Fidel Castro, feel they can afford to act with only their interests in mind.There's not much coalition-building here. It makes for some pretty tense inter-ethnic relations.

Cheryl Devall

Miami Splice

The most powerful Cuban-American – a man who was never elected to office but who was widely expected here to become the president of a post-communist Cuba – was Jorge Mas Canosa.

Bay of Pigs veteran, multi-millionaire telecommunications magnate, founder of the Cuban-American National Foundation, Mas Canosa was the tail that wagged the dog of U.S. foreign policy toward Cuba.

Indeed, the former head of the U.S. interests section in Havana once declared that if not for Mas Canosa, relations between the two countries would have been normalized 10 years ago. It was hard to ignore his clout, whether you admired or despised the political philosophy behind it.

In late November, Mas Canosa died at age 58. It wasn't unexpected. The rumors of his cancer had circulated for months. But when his associates gathered four days before Thanksgiving to announce plans for what turned out to be a state funeral by the Cuban government in exile, it hit my rewind button to 10 years ago.

There was the same crowded, stuffy meeting room, the same mass of dark suits and red eyes that I'd seen at Chicago City Hall in November 1987.

The parallel struck me particularly hard when one of Mas Canosa's old allies, Pepe Hernandez, expressed his thoughts twice for the Spanish and English-speaking press and could barely contain himself in either language: "At this very moment, I am certain Jorge is in heaven lobbying God for the freedom of Cuba."

Now, on my bulletin board in Miami, I still have that button with the downtown Chicago skyline and the words, "Hi, God. How's Harold?"

The days following the two deaths, 10 years apart, were eerily similar: long lines at the all-night wake, lengthy tributes in the papers and television, an overflow crowd at the funeral service, tears over the Thanksgiving turkey. And no small bitterness over the triumph, however momentary, of the political foes who lived to fight another day.

Miami is a city I don't understand, and probably never will the way I know and love Chicago. But I do understand the sadness. Because I remember what it felt like to lose a leader you really thought would change the world.

The writer a , 1982 Columbia Journalism graduate, is a Miami-based National Public Radio correspondent.

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Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

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Race and gender lawsuit moves forward

Dodson vs. New York Times

By Toni Randolph

Former *New York Times* editor Angela Dodson is pressing forward with the discrimination lawsuit she filed against the newspaper in federal court last summer.

The case is now in the discovery phase.

At one time Dodson was the highest-ranking black editor at *The Times* – editor of the Style department. But she said she was harassed to the point that she collapsed in 1994, then was demoted to the news desk, and "constructively discharged" in October 1995.

The lawsuit alleges Dodson was not allowed to properly manage white employees and lacked support from her superiors when she disciplined her subordinates.

The Times has denied the charges.

Dodson originally accused *The Times* of racial and sexual discrimination in a 1995 claim filed with the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Her lawyer has since asked the city for an administrative dismissal of that claim in order to pursue the federal case.

Dodson is seeking unspecified damages for lost wages, benefits and promotional opportunities. She is also seeking punitive damages. Her attorney says it may go to trial some time in mid-1998.

Madam Walker honored

Ancestor of GSJ alumna

By Wayne Dawkins

The 1998 U.S. Postal Service Black Heritage stamp honors the great-great-grandmother of Columbia J-school graduate A'Lelia Perry Bundles,'76.

The first class (32-cent) Madam C.J. Walker stamp was released Jan. 28 during festivities in Indianapolis.



With a $1.50 investment in

Continued on back page

Cease-fire on telemarket blitz

Counting on alumni to give

NEW YORK – Columbia University J-school Dean Tom Goldstein imposed a one-year moratorium on telephone solicitation of alumni who are already donors to the school.

He said in a Dec. 16 letter: "Telemarketing is a very effective way of raising money even though many givers, including me, feel it can be intrusive.

But while Goldstein holds the solicitors at bay he is counting on alumni to step up to the plate.

More than 70 percent of 235 full- and 65 part-time students in the current class receive financial aid. Tuition is $21,338 and the average amount of aid is $1,750.

Journalism alumni are urged to give and take advantage of matching gift programs if their employer has one.

NABJ and Civic Journalism in March

"Reporting the Nuances: Civic Journalism and Communities of Color" March 6-8 is a workshop co-sponsored by the NABJ Media Institute and the Pew Center for Civic Journalism.

It is as opportunity to ask more meaningful questions, expand coverage of communities of color and see more possibilities for "framing" stories. The sessions are at the



Inn and Conference Center. University of Maryland. College Park.

Space is limited and the deadline for registration ($35) is Feb. 11. Call the Pew Center (202) 331-3200 or NABJ (301) 405-8500.

Smooth sailing for 'Amistad'

Integrity, education, entertainment bonded

WAYNE DAWKINS
Commentary

"Amistad" was, still is, a real talker.

The Debbie Allen-Stephen Speilberg film was put under a microscope. Some people tried to compare it with Speilberg's "Schindler's List." Both movies, despite similar themes and the same director, defy realistic face-to-face comparisons.

Other people doubted that movie goers could stand the courtroom dialogue, which is the substance of the film. "Amistad" was not for those addicted to chase scenes, cartoon violence and cheap sex.

What happened was despite nitpicking and cynicism in many quarters, the Amistad film combined historical integrity, entertainment and educational value.

It's only a movie. It's only two hours long, and its success is measured commercially, despite generous critical praise.

It opened during Christmas season a week before the launch of the $200 million epic "Titanic." Nevertheless, "Amistad" did not sink at the box office. Through the Christmas season and mid-to-late January it was a fixture among the 10 best-grossing movies, in the top five early in the game.

"Amistad" ranked 10th at more than $3 million for the previous week when top movies were published in my local newspaper, the Gary, Ind. *Post-Tribune* Jan. 19. Last December when it was in the top five it often took in $million or more a week.

"Amistad" slipped from the 10 Jan. 26. But didn't it sail swiftly for a long time?

On Jan. 23, a social studies teacher took 350 high students to an early morning viewing of the movie in Merrillville, Ind. The boys and girls said they were shocked by the depiction of the African slave trade.

"Amistad" made money despite a delayed release of a week or more in medium and small city markets.

The next time so-called Hollywood experts say black folk don't have the patience for period-piece dramas, remind them of "Amistad."

Also note that many whites will see blacks in major dramatic roles if the movie is sold convincingly and delivered well.

As for its talker appeal "Amistad" even grabbed the attention of two leading white conservative columnists. Apparently they felt the need to weigh in on the film rather than ignore it.

George Will praised the film, claiming the legal victory by 53 Africans proved the virtue of the American justice system.

Yes, though Mr. Will exaggerated.

Moreover, the Amistad case exposed a judicial and constitutional crisis in America. In following its ideals and laws, concluding that the African captives were not cargo but humans with rights, the case pushed the young United States inevitably to Civil War in two decades.

John Leo, the self-appointed political correctness basher and *U.S. News & World Report* columnist, claimed he liked the movie but repeatedly damned it with faint praise.

He wished out loud for exaggerations and distortions of history and appeared frustrated that there were few buffoonish examples to skewer.

"Amistad," the talker, the buzz among people who watched it, should also be the great read. Go to books and other sources and examine that time period.

The 1839 sea rebellion that led to a trial in Connecticut was not an isolated incident.

Two years later in November 1841 a slave revolt erupted on the Creole, en route to New Orleans from Hampton, Va., noted Afro-American scholar Lerone Bennett Jr.

The rebels sailed the ship to the Bahamas. They were granted asylum and freedom.

Letters

Carries clout in Performing arts

I was so happy to read E.R. Shipp's tribute to Phyl Garland (December).

I took Phyl's cultural reporting class, and it was one of the highlights in what was a very rough year for me a Columbia.

Indeed, Phyl arranged for me to meet Leontyne Price after a spine-tingling recital the diva

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gave at the Metropolitan Opera.

I can still remember being ushered to the front of the line of the hundreds of people who were waiting for an audience with Ms. Price because I was with Phyl Garland.

Of course, Phyl, being Phyl, has never said much about the influence she wields in the world of Black arts. I thank BAN for giving us a glimpse of one of our true heroines.

Evelyn C. White, '85
Oakland, Calif.

Woods' identity crisis

RE: "1997 reviewed" (January) you listed the disturbed, African-American dissing Tiger Woods as a highest-profile African-American.

Woods has repeatedly said he is *not* African-American but a mixture he calls "Cablasian," which puts Caucasian first, only spells out Asian and doesn't attempt to include African-American (vs. black). Let's not include this man who doesn't want to be identified with us.

Evie Kaiulani Daufin
Montgomery, Ala.

Jobline

The News-Sentinel, a progressive six-day Knight-Ridder p.m. newspaper in a strong market, seeks a **copy editor** to help lead its universal copy desk. Work

The News SENTINEL

hours are morning and afternoon. Management experience, layout and wire-editing skills, Quark Xpress familiarity and reporting experience are big pluses. Comfort with the World Wide Web and spreadsheets is helpful. Send resume and editing samples to Mark Thompson-Kolar, assistant managing editor, *The News-Sentinel*, 600 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Or call (219) 461-8713. . .The University of Nebraska at Kearney seeks a **Lecturer-Print Journalism** to teach course in news writing, photojournalism, introduction to mass communication and serve as adviser to the student

University of Nebraska at Kearney

newspaper. It is a one-year appointment with a renewable contract. Start date is August. Deadline to apply is Monday, February 9. Send letter of application, vita, three references and three writing samples to Dr. Carol Lomicky, University of Nebraska, 109 Thomas Hall, Kearney, NE 68849. Or call (308) 865-8249 . . . February 2 is the application deadline for these Robert C. Maynard Institute programs: **The Editing Program,** May 31 to July 3 at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and **Multimedia Editing** March 16 to 20 in Phoenix. Call (510) 891-9202 or fax 891-9565 for an application. . . . *The Connection* newspaper in Teaneck, N.J. seeks **freelance writer**s to cover education, politics and church news in the black communities of North Jersey and New York City. Send resume and clips to Ralph Johnson, editor, P.O.

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Changes in College Park

Joanne Lyons Wooten announced in December that she is leaving as executive director of the National Association of Black Journalists.

She is leaving, she said to pursue a family opportunity, developing and managing land they own in North Carolina.

Wooten intends to serve the association at least through March or until a successor is chosen.

NABJ

She began work with NABJ in 1995. The move from Reston, Va. to new headquarters in College Park, Md. and the development of a strategic plan and NABJ Institute occurred during her time.

Wooten's announcement came about the time NABJ announced added staff: communications director Deborah Randolph Chase and fund raiser Patsy Pressley.

Missing in action

They returned battered a bruised from a futile journey. Newsletters were returned from the U.S. Postal Service for these readers:

- Shelly Branch, '88, NYC
- Lise Funderburg, '91, B'klyn, NY
- Lisa Rhodes, '88, Greenbelt, Md.
- Mark Sampson,'92, Rockville,Md.
- Toni Laws. NAA, Reston, Va.

To paraphrase the Chi-Lites, "Have you seen them, tell me have you seen them." – wjd

MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

People

Lisa Cox, '92, moves to weekend and morning show producer with WHDH-TV (NBC) Boston from news writer and assignment editor with WJLA-TV, Washington, D.C. . . . **Anthony Chapelle, '84,** wrote the cover story for the December *Emerge* about corporations using black music and other culture as a vehicle to sell products. The phenomenon is a double-edged blade that is viewed with pride, contempt and cynicism. . . . In last fall's *Next Step* magazine the Africa Outreach chapter of **Wayne Dawkins' '80,** book *The NABJ Story,* was excerpted. Also, **Manuel Norat, '80** profiled actor Ted Lange. In the Philadelphia-based magazine. . . .**R. David Addams, '80,** formerly with IMCR Dispute Resolution Center in Bronx, N.Y. is now with Associated Black Charities in Manhattan. . . . Thanks **Lolis Eric Elie, '86** of New Orleans (*Times-Picayune*) for the wonderfully Afro centric "Nappy Holidays" greeting card.

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

B.A.N. archives . . .

Five years ago, Feb. 1992

The tragedy at City College of New York shortly after Christmas – the stampede at the benefit basketball game that led to deaths and dozens of injuries – recalled the potential NABJ tragedy that was averted two years earlier.

At the 1989 New York convention a fashion show with top black 7th Avenue models was staged in the Hilton Hotel. There were delays. Hundreds of stylishly dressed people became impatient. They started pushing to get in. A woman reportedly fainted. People eventually entered without incident and enjoyed the show. But convention co-chair woman Linda Waller was alarmed. She and other organizers and the NABJ board drew up a backup plan to safely move 1,000 delegates from the midtown hotel to a chartered "A" Train and to Harlem's Apollo, rain or shine. Stephen Miller said unlike the CCNY fiasco, NABJ people talked to police in advance and had cooperation. "We anticipated the worst," he said. And it did not occur.

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Ancestor of Alumna

Continued

that city, she launched the black hair care and beauty industry in the USA.

Walker (1867-1919) became the first African-American woman millionaire (and moreover, according to some historical accounts, the first American woman millionaire who earned the money rather than be born into or inherit it).

"At a time when 90 percent of African-Americans lived in the South," Bundles wrote in *American History,* "and most working black women were field laborers and household domestics, few people were contemplating, let alone exalting, their natural beauty."

Madam Walker's cosmetic business changed that.

A'Lelia Bundles, named after Madam Walker's daughter, spearheaded the campaign to put the innovator on a stamp.

Bundles is deputy bureau chief with ABC News in Washington, D.C.

She wrote a youth book about her great-great grandmother earlier this decade and is completing an intergenerational biography of her family, expected in 1999.

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Black Alumni Network
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Periodical to be featured in forthcoming reference book

MADISON, Wis – The *Black Alumni Network* newsletter is scheduled to be among over 6,000 included in *African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography* by James P. Danky.

Harvard University Press is to publish the book in fall 1998.

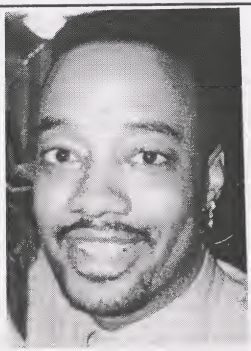
This unprecedented resource identifies and locates the widest variety of newspapers, magazines and newsletters published in black America since *Freedom's Journal* appeared in New York in 1827.

Librarians around the world are expected to use the publication to identify titles for their own collections as well as patrons.

Black Alumni Network newsletter has published monthly since July 1980.

It started in New York City and has since published from Mount Vernon, N.Y., Maple Shade, N.J., Philadelphia, Sicklerville, N.J. and Merrillville, Ind.

It is now based in Newport News, Va.



Ken Maurice Jones

People

Spike Lee and the African American Filmmakers: A Choice of Colors (1997, Milbrook Press, Conn. $23.90) by **Ken Maurice Jones, '81,** is a history of black filmmakers from 1903 to 1996. A companion guide to major directors and producers of the African American film movement. Jones interviewed Spike Lee, Danny Glover, Melvin Van Peebles, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Cuba Gooding Jr., Halle Berry, Lela Rochon and many others. Discount for bulk orders ($17.93 for 10 or more). Call 800-462-4703. Jones, who lives in Detroit, previously wrote for the same publisher on the evolution of rap and hip-hop music. . . **Dan Holly, '85,** joins the Raleigh *News & Observer* this month as an assistant metro editor. He will be supervising five employees who cover suburban beats outside Raleigh. Holly was an editor at the *Federal Times* in the Washington, D.C. area and before that he was a reporter at the *Detroit Free Press* and *Miami Herald.* . . . **Jill Nelson, '80,** breezed into Louisville, Ky. for a hot minute in February to promote her book *Straight No Chaser*. A mixed crowd filled every seat for her reading at Hawley-Cooke, a locally owned bookstore that is good about bringing in African-American authors. Nelson and **Betty Winston Baye, '80,** met at a Valentine mixer given at Baye's social club, the Chums. After that it was off to Betty's condo, where she and Jill sat up half the night catching up. It

Continued on back page



Jill Nelson

Scary ride home

East Coast kid survives Heartland, returns

WAYNE DAWKINS
Commentary

I'm back home from a journalistic war zone, battered but not seriously injured .

Since July 1996 I've been an assistant metro editor at the Gary, Ind. *Post-Tribune*.

The paper was in one of the last markets that has head-to-head competition. Our adversary was the Hammond *Times*, another broadsheet with the circulation lead.

The *Post-Tribune* had sounder news instincts – it had Knight-Ridder tradition on its side – but the *Times* was more colorful and had more bodies. They seemed to be everywhere.

Every day was an Ali-Frazier fight. We'd whomp them, they'd whomp back.

For you New Yorkers the relationship was akin to the New York *Daily News* vs. the *New York Post*.

But by April we lunged from our defensive position and took the offensive.

The *Post-Tribune* gave itself a colorful makeover and added bolder headlines and a higher story count.

Meanwhile there was news that Knight-Ridder added four newspapers to its stable including powerhouses *Kansas City Star* and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* .

Little did we know that the new family members signaled our demise.

Knight-Ridder spent $1 billion to get the papers from Disney-ABC.

To pay down the debt K-R in June announced it wanted to shed five papers including the *Post-Tribune*.

We were "profitable" but " not profitable enough" said a corporate big wig from Miami.

In October a suitor stepped forward, Canadian-based Hollinger International, owner of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

With the announcement the Newspaper Guild was no longer recognized by the outgoing management, an ominous sign.

Weeks before the Feb. 2 settlement date things got hairier. Hollinger selected its publisher; the editor would be announced later.

Two weeks before closing publisher Boni Fine sent us employees letters.

We were welcomed to the new company.

Then we were told that we had to reapply for our jobs.

I figured after 17 years and three dailies it was my time to face a crossroads. I read about or knew many colleagues who had their papers closed, sold, or were laid off.

When I stood on that line winding from the all-purpose room and out to the cafeteria and to the hallway, I thought about that scene in "Amistad" when the crew decided who they would throw overboard to lighten the load.

Twenty four hours later a great thing happened. The *Daily Press* in Newport News-Hampton, Va. called and offered me the job of my dreams: associate editor of the opinion pages.

With the wonderful career opportunity was a return ticket east. It's great to see the Atlantic again. I could never get used to the local weather maps that locked into five great Lakes states where there are long winters, short summers and rumors of spring and fall.

1997 was a bumpy employment year for many newspapers. At least a dozen substantial papers changed ownership.

The *Los Angeles Times* was turned inside out. The church-state wall of separation between advertising and the newsroom was pulverized by the boss. ABC lost its magic touch as network news leader and CBS made a comeback.

With my new opportunity in Virginia it means change in this space.

When my weekly newspaper column ended in 1996 with my departure from New Jersey I started writing in this space monthly. Now that I'm back as a columnist I hope to write occasionally in this space and use it for other news.

Thank you readers for your encouragement and feedback.

Letters

J-professor nurtured publishing success

As I read Evelyn White's letter regarding E.R. Shipp's tribute to Phyl Garland (February), I thought of one of my own Phyl stories. She was my J-school advisor. And, noting that I was named

Black Journalists The NABJ STORY
Wayne Dawkins

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"A'Lelia" as we were discussing possible paper (Master's project) topics, she asked if I were related to A'Lelia Walker and Madam Walker. "Yes" I said, glad that she recognized the name, but a little self-conscious about whatever expectation might be associated with it.

"Well then," she announced, "of course that is what your paper topic will be."

While I had written a few short pieces in high school and college about the Walker women – mostly about A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance – I had not really done serious, primary source research.

Because of Phyl I began interviewing surviving family members and Walker Company employees and searching for old documents and photographs.

As it turned out my year at Columbia was very difficult for me because my mother died of lung cancer while I was at home in Indianapolis for the Christmas holidays. I was grieving too much to write a great paper (Sorry, Phyl).

But her encouragement started me on a road which has led to a young adult book, a Walker commemorative stamp, increased understanding of Madam Walker's entrepreneurial, philanthropic and activist legacy, and a forthcoming biography about four generations of women in my family.

A'Lelia Bundles, '76
Alexandria. Va.

Black Alumni Network Newsletter
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Betty Winston Baye,
Angela Chatman,
Cheryl Devall, E.R. Shipp
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Jobline

The Poynter Institute and the Orlando Sentinel are sponsoring one of eight regional National Writers Workshops April 25-26 at the Orlando Marriott Downtown. Among the more than 30 presenters will be *Miami Herald* columnist and suspense novelist Tananarive Due, *Boston Globe* metro columnist and poet Patricia Smith and *Kansas City Star* columnist and associate editor Lewis Diuguid. Registration is $65. **Deadline is March 23.** Contact Nancy Kunzman c/o Orlando Sentinel, 633 N. Orange Ave., MP 4, Orlando, FL 32801. Or call (407) 420-5418. . . The San Francisco State University Journalism Department seeks to hire an **assistant professor** with extensive reporting experience and a varied journalistic background, capable of teaching skills and survey courses and advising student publications. **Required:** Six years or more of professional experience; bachelors, masters or Ph.D; ability to publish in-depth journalism and journalism analysis or scholarly research; commitment to excellence in reporting; creativity and range to integrate new media into journalism studies, and evidence of successful teaching. Salary range: $38,000 to $50,000. **Application review** begins **March 20.** Send cover letter, resume, syllabus of a reporting class, seven examples of recent professional work and three letters of recommendation to Erna Smith, chairwoman, Journalism Department, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132. . . *The News-Sentinel*, a progressive six-day Knight-Ridder p.m. newspaper in a strong market, seeks a **copy editor** to help lead its universal copy desk. Work hours are morning and afternoon. Management experience, layout and wire-editing skills, Quark Xpress familiarity and reporting experience are big pluses. Comfort with the World Wide Web and spreadsheets is helpful. Send resume and editing samples to Mark Thompson-Kolar, assistant managing editor, *The News-Sentinel*, 600 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Or call (219) 461-8713.

Olympian Carl Lewis unlike his press clippings

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Track star and multiple Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis was here recently at the Kentucky Authors Forum sponsored by the University of Louisville.

Lewis was quite the opposite of his media depiction as aloof and unapproachable.

In fact, Lewis, with whom the writer sat through dinner, was witty, warm, intelligent and deeply committed to organ donations and the United Negro College Fund.

Of all the celebrities I've met, Carl Lewis is the one who is most unlike his press.

He's a nice guy.

If more people knew that, they might think of Lewis with the same positive feelings they do many great athletes.

– Betty Winston Baye

MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

People

Continued



Dan Holly

was a quick visit, but a lot of fun. . . . **James McBride, '80,** was profiled in late January on the Style section front of *The Washington Post*. The piece covered the continuing success of his 1996 bestseller, *The Color of Water*. **Esther Iverem, '83,** a *Post* staff writer, did the profile. . . **William Henry Wright, '79,** checked in: "I'm now orking for my third UMass president in five years, William Bulger, the former state Senate president. A few months ago *The Boston Globe* hosted a reception for Dean Goldstein and I was able to connect with a number of J-school grads, recent and one who was 50 years out – and still writing – Mariel Cohen."

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

NABJ regional conferences

Regions 2 and 3, (Northeast and Mid-Atlantic) April 24-26, Philadelphia
Region 4, (Southeast) Charleston, S.C. March 26-29.
Regions 5 and 8 (Midwest and Great Plains) May 1-3, Minneapolis
Region 6 (Mideast), April 3-5, Memphis

Call (301) 405-8500; fax 405-8555 or nabj@jmail.umd.edu

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B.A.N. archives

TEN YEARS AGO, MARCH 1988

"She doesn't look like a typical Russian," wrote James McBride, ''80, in *The Washington Post* (Feb. 4). "With her cinnamon-brown skin, pretty brown eyes, round face, full lips, fashionable purple winter coat and pin-stripe suit, she looks more like a Harvard law student or or a corporate executive, or perhaps a middle-class architect from Boston.

"But she's none of those."

He profiled Afro-Russian journalist Yelena Abdulevena Khanga, 25, a reporter for the *Moscow Weekly News* (1 million circulation) a tabloid published primarily for foreigners.

For three months this winter, Khanga worked at the *Christian Science Monitor* in Boston in an exchange program co-sponsored by U.S. and Soviet press associations.

She is the grand-daughter of a black communist from Mississippi who married a white woman from New York and emi-grated to the (former) Soviet Union in 1920. Khanga was born and raised in Russia.

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Black Alumni Network
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Volume 18, No. 4
APRIL 1998

Motivating force

Workshop inspires aspiring journalist

By **Leticia S. Theodore**

NEW YORK – I have never been a part of a formal organization but on March 14 I attended a workshop given by the National Association of black Journalists at New York University. It was my first time attending anything hosted by the NABJ.

I had all intentions of attending the workshops, but mainly this was to be another session of introducing myself and collecting names, cards and numbers.

As a rookie journalist I had begun to view every journalism event – though they were touted as something else – as primarily an opportunity to network.

But my experience on that rainy Saturday became more than a networking opportunity.

It seems that when "blacks" and "media" are mentioned in the same sentence, it is almost always patronizing or disastrous. Not this time. I realized for the first time that quite a few blacks held prominent roles in the media. It was a good feeling. We were represented everywhere, from reporter to editor-in-chief.

These busy and I'm sure exhausted people – for it seems to me that this field allows little rest – gave up their Saturday for us students. They were committed to helping future journalists and each other. On

Continued on back page

Fred Friendly, 1st Amendment crusader, dies

In the early 1980s Columbia University journalism students affectionately called the required journalism and law class "the 1st Amendment as theater."

Fred W. Friendly was the leading man.

He was tall and wide like a football lineman. We students had to brace for his media blitz. He paced the lecture hall in the law school and randomly quizzed students in that booming voice. Friendly wanted to be sure his charges had firm grounding in the 1st Amendment and how it applied to the press and public.

Now he is gone. Friendly, 82, pioneering television producer and onetime president of CBS News, has died March 3 at his New York home after a series of strokes .

From 1959 to 1964 Friendly was executive producer of "CBS Reports," putting out landmark programs like "Harvest of Shame."

He became president of CBS News in March 1964. He resigned abruptly on Feb. 15, 1966, when the network broadcast an "I Love Lucy" rerun while rival NBC went live with a Senate hearing on Vietnam.



See page 4

The resignation opened the way for his work in academia and in public television.

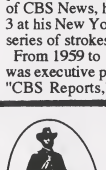
He was quick to speak when anyone violated what he considered the principles of his profession.

Television news, he once said, was in danger of being "twisted into an electronic carnival, in which show-biz wizardry and values obscure the line between entertainment and news."

The televised Columbia University Seminars on Media and Society brought jurists, journalists, government officials and others together to discuss on everything from libel to health care, terrorism to the Constitution.

Walter Cronkite declared them "an absolutely splendid

See back page



See Page 3

BLACK CAMISARDS
Civil War Memorabilia
United States Colored Troops

My Mother, the Domestic

It was 11:30 at night when I arrived in Chico, Calif. in April 1919, after crossing the country by rail. I had not seen Mama for seven years, ever since she and my younger sister Katie had left me in Florida when I was 4 years old. Mama smothered me with hugs and kisses, then introduced me to my stepfather, a genial giant named Moses Mosley.

Katie had lain awake waiting to see her older brother, of whom she had heard a lot but had no memories. I guess I had become a sort of myth to her. In Chico, Kate felt left out, because she had no other siblings to stand up for her.

Thomas C. Fleming

REFLECTIONS ON BLACK HISTORY

Before Mama had gone to the depot to meet me, she placed a galvanized washing tub in the middle of the kitchen floor.

When we came in, she fed me. Then she poured hot water in the tub, added some cold water and tested the temperature with her index finger. She began to undress me.

After four days and nights of travel without changing any clothing, I smelled very gamy. I tried to resist, and she gave me a gentle slap on the head and told me that she was my mother and that I did not have to be ashamed in front of her.

I wore long black stockings and knee pants, which were the vogue for boys then. A boil on one of my feet had burst, and the stocking was stuck to my foot. As my mother was placing me in the tub, she examined the sore, then put both stocking and foot in the water, and finally worked the stocking off. That was perhaps the most exhilarating bath I had taken in my short life. The warm water made me drowsy, and I suddenly felt very tired.

Like almost every black woman in Chico, Mama worked as a domestic for a white family. It was very tiring, because she had to keep the house clean, do the laundry and cook the meals. She worked 10 hours a day, easily. Domestics received such low wages. I don't think Mama ever earned over $45 a month.

Mama brought home leftovers from whomever she worked for. It was customary all over the country for black domestics to cook enough food for the white folks so that they could bring some home for their families.

Refrigerators were just coming into being, and could probably be found in restaurants and soda fountains, but they weren't yet popular in homes. The ice man would traverse the streets every day. Most of the wagons were horse-drawn until about 1923.

One black woman in Chico, who had come from Philadelphia, took two rooms in her home and opened her own beauty parlor. All of her clients were white. She had operated the same type of business in Philadelphia, which had more than 100,000 blacks at the time, more than any other city in the country except New York, Chicago and possibly Detroit.

My world was much bigger than Mama's. She read until late at night – mostly the Bible, or literature about her church. She belonged to the only black church in Chico, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, but she would sometimes go to the Pentecostal Church in Oroville.

Mama never complained. She died when she was 57 from kidney failure. I always felt it was because she worked hard all her life, and was not a big person. She was 4 foot 11.

Mama was a very decent person. She never took anything that didn't belong to her, and she always gave you a straight answer. She would keep her mouth shut and not say anything, rather than tell a lie. She had the greatest influence on me, to be honest in your relationships with other people in the world. She was the most wonderful person I have ever known.

Fleming, 90, writes for the Sun-Reporter, San Francisco's African American weekly. A 48-page book of his stories and photos from 1907-19 is available for $3. Write to sunreport@aol.com.

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Jobline

The copy desk at *Business Week* magazine wants to increase its pool of **free-lancers.** Looking for a meticulous line editor and nimble headline writer who's collegial and entertaining to work with. Business savvy not essential. Apply by letter only to Prudence Crowther, Deputy Copy Chief, Business Week, 1221 Sixth Ave., 39th floor, NYC 10014. . . . WHYY TV12 & FM 91 was looking for a **Marketing, Small Business Coordinator,** a motivated person to establish a small business program to build relationships, seek contributions and provide meaningful benefits for financial support of the station. Fund raising, sales or marketing experience essential. Send cover letter and resume to Deborah Palmer, WHYY Inc., 150 N. Sixth St., Philadephia, Pa. 19106 . . . The News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C. seeks a **Durham editor.** Required: A veteran reporter and word editor. Supervise 10 reporters and a news assistant in the home of Duke and North Carolina Central universities and the Research Triangle. Send cover letter, resume and references to Melanie Sill, managing editor, 215 S. McDowell St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Or call (800) 365-6115. The paper also seeks a **director of photography,** an experienced shooter and picture editor to supervise a two dozen member department. Contact William W. Sutton, deputy managing editor.

The *Village VOICE* seeks an **assistant editor/fact checker.** It is a four-day, 35-hour work week. Send resume to Athima Chansanchal, 36 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003-7118.

People

Marvin V. Greene, '86, a Baltimore area self-employed writer and editor covering mostly high technology, also co-owns Black Camisards, a company publishing and producing Civil War memorabilia. "With the United States Colored Troops Memorial coming up this summer, he explained, "we decided to produce original products." Greene and John Gourdin founded the company in 1997. Check out the web site, www.blackcamisards.com ... "In 1993, I quit Black Enterprise to become a full-time free-lancer and Mr. Mom while my smarter half went to grad school," said **Frank L. McCoy, '86.** "We moved to Maryland. I thought we would see the launch of *Our World News*. Alas, we never got the funding and I had to put the harness back on and find a full-time job. In March I joined *U.S. News & World Report* as a senior editor and as the Business in Brief editor. The hardest part about working in an office again is not having a 30-second commute. The other strange part about leaving the house to work is dressing up. I can't arrive in my bare feet, shorts and whatever theme T-shirt strikes my fancy on a given day. I continue to do outside work – with *USN&WR's* blessing – as well. I host the NetNoir Bu$ine$$ Chat, a live business chat show. I am also business editor for The Black World Today, which can be found at www.tbwt.com." . . .

Evelyn C. White, '85, reviewed *Paradise* (Knopf) by Toni Morrison for *Express*, the East Bay, Calif. weekly. Set in Ruby, Okla. in the late 1970s, White wrote "Morrison crafts Paradise as one might imagine Picasso painted Guernica, with a lyricism imbued with a prophetic vision of doom."

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

NABJ News

Yvette Walker of the Kansas City Star was named editor of the *NABJ Journal* in March. The *Journal* will be a magazine-style quarterly. On other months members will receive *NABJ Update*, a tabloid-size newsletter of association news edited by Debbie Chase of the national office. . . . **April 10** is the deadline for Salute to Excellence awards entries. Send them to 3100 Taliaferro Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742. . . Regional Conferences are scheduled in Philadelphia (April 24-26; Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states) and Minneapolis (May 1-3, Midwest and Plains states). Call (301) 405-8500; fax 405-8555 or nabj@jmail.umd.edu

Urban development conference in Calif.

The Foundation for American

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MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

Friendly

Continued from front page

use of television to inform and educate in a format that is at the same time delightfully entertaining and intellectually challenging."

Friendly said their purpose was "to open minds and to make the agony of decision-making so intense that you can escape only by thinking." But he cited the summer minority training program at that began at Columbia in the late 1960s as his proudest achievement.

– Associated Press contributed to this report.

Motivating force

Continued from front page

that day every workshop facilitator and every speaker became my personal mentor. I felt guided and cared about. People spoke candidly about their experiences and gave advice. I learned and experienced a lot that day at NYU.

As black journalists we have much more to accomplish. I walked away from NYU knowing that we have made great strides and will continue to do so. Those ahead of us have begun a path, and we as young journalists must continue, keeping in mind those who will follow.

I have never belonged to a formal organization.

I am now a member of NABJ.

– The writer is a 1997-98 Columbia University Journalism student.

April investing

April 20-24 is a National Week of Investment, announced the Coalition of Black Investors (COBI). Carol Davis, attorney and head of the Winston-Salem, N.C. based group, said it is promoting the week to increase African-Americans' awareness of the need to save and invest.

COBI urged:

- Blacks to invest and additional $25 or more in savings, stocks, bonds or mutual funds on Friday, April 24 "pay day." Those who do not save, begin on Friday, April 24.
- Form investment clubs. Have black investment professionals host seminars that week and have student essay contests.

For information, call (910) 945-8977; FAX 924-0071; e-mail COBINVEST@aol.com or see www.COBINVEST.com

Continued from 3

Communications is conducting "Covering Land Use and Urban Growth," May 6-8.

Contact FACS, 3800 Barham Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90068, or call Christina Gardener, (213)851-7372, FAX 851-9186,

Conference in Greece to defend media diversity

Athens, Greece will be the site of the conference, "A 21st Century dialogue: The media's dark age?" May 24-28. It will be a week of debate and discussion on corporate and government control of news and information and a challenge to that control and its consequences.

A few years ago, said Margarita Papandreau, global coordinator of Women for Mutual Security, corporate control of the media was broadly dispersed, but today, media corporations controlling the industry have been reduced to 20.

Ben Bagdikian, a conference speaker and former *Washington Post* editor, projects that by 2000, five or six media conglomerates will control all news worldwide, raising the likelihood of undemocratic control of information.

Registration is limited to 100 people and those attending will receive reduced air fares if they fly on Olympic Airways.

Registration deadline is April 30. Conference fee is $200; hotel $160 per day single, $100 double. Contact L. Foerstel. 5110 W. Penfield Road, Columbia, MD 21045

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Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 5
MAY 1998

A close encounter with Disney

In communist countries, on military bases and in the midst of natural and human-crafted disasters, I have encountered plenty of escorts assigned to monitor my movements.

But never has one of them ordered me to smile.

That happened only after I arrived at Animal Kingdom, the newest portion of Walt Disney World in Florida.

Cheryl Devall
Miami Splice

I was there because a dozen exotic animal deaths at the park were were under investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (which eventually cleared Disney).

For me it was a business story with major implications for the state's largest industry, tourism. For nearly everyone else visiting that day it was, well, a trip to Disney World.

During my visit, the park was full of other media personnel, including travel writers and disc jockeys broadcasting live from the park, groups of schoolchildren and Disney contractors and employees.

At least one of these employees would not stop walking alongside me until I obeyed her directive.

What followed was brief but it seemed endless.

"*SMILE.*" Her voice was steel coated in honey.

Preoccupied as I was with the story and with cutting through the jolly crowds, I didn't believe she was talking to me. She was young, well groomed, dressed as were all the staff in a bright African-style print, and perkily persistent. Smiling, of course.

I was already late for an interview, and in order to get there I'd resolved to ignore the seeming legions of Disney personnel – they call themselves "cast members" – whose sole apparent job is to greet and to guide.

Perhaps, I thought, they're one reason for the $44.52 admission to what its promoters refuse to call a zoo.

During 1 1/2 years in Florida, I'd managed so far to avoid direct

Continued on back page

Annual Spring Meeting

The Alumni Association of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Journalism Alumni Awards will be presented to:

Tonnie Katz, J'67
editor and vice president,
The Orange County Register

Steve Kroft, J'75
co-editor, CBS *60 Minutes*

Michael Maidenberg, J'67
publisher, *Grand Forks Herald*

Friday, **May 1,** 6 p.m.
Faculty Room, Low Library
Columbia University
116th Street and Broadway
New York City
(212)854-3864
alumni@jrn.columbia.edu

Columbia J-school '99 class selected

Two-hundred seventy five applicants received acceptance letters from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in April, said school officials.

When J-school reopens in early August, 220 students are expected to be in the 1998-99 class, said Robert McDonald, director of admissions and financial aid.

The school accepts more students than it expects to attend because a few dozen decide not to come.

Last fall was an exception, however. Nearly everyone showed up, making for a J-school building that was bursting at the seams.

Cost is one factor. The budgeted cost for tuition, living and medical expenses and a computer allowance is $39,906, said McDonald, up about 6 percent from the previous year.

Most students get an average $2,200 scholarship from the J-school, but that is only 8 percent of the bill. Many students make up the difference with government loans and additional funding. "The weakest link of any J-school is scholarships," said McDonald. "The dean (Tom Goldstein) is working on it."

Alumni will be urged to give more generously and media companies will be solicited.

McDonald gave this profile of the incoming class.

• In all, about 950 people applied to the school; about one of every 3.5

Continued on back page

No pity please, Omaha, Neb., is truly a good place to live

DONNETTE DUNBAR
Commentary

Every time I tell folks I live in Omaha, Neb., inevitably what follows is a sympathetic groan, complemented by the words, "We've just got to get you out of there, you poor thing!"

Sometimes I chuckle at the person's naivete. Other times I simply acquiesce and agree that I do live a so-called miserable life in the Midwest because it seems to make the party at the other end of the line feel better. But other times, I tell the truth: life in Omaha really hasn't been that bad.

This confession is often met with some comment like 'yeah right... I suppose that's what you have to tell yourself while you're still there."

Not quite.

Now, I'm not trying to pre-tend that Omaha is the most cosmopolitan city in the country. It's not.

But contrary to its cornhusker reputation,Omaha is not just a bunch of cornfields with people sitting around eating medium to rare steaks and drinking Budweiser.

The black population is 12 percent, mirroring the nation.

It does have wonderful local theaters, a good symphony, wonderful and well-renowned museums and a first-class zoo and aquarium.

I've found that sometimes we take advantage of cultural opportunities when we're starved for them rather than when they're always available.

It was in Omaha that I discovered the works of the late African-American artist William Johnson when the Joslyn Museum sponsored a month-long exhibit featuring his works.

Because Omaha is centered in the middle of the country, I've been able to visit many neigh-boring cities and states such as Kansas City, Chicago, Iowa and Minnesota. Quite possibly I would never have had an in-terest in going to these cities had I not been living in Omaha.And I'm the better for having visited them because my experiences and outlook on life have been broadened because of my travels.

And I've made a miraculous discovery in the process. I like small-town living and I now know that not only can I flou-rish and thrive personally and professionally in just about any place that I live, I know that by choice I don't necessarily want to live in a BIG City.

The first time I became aware of this new-found sentiment was about a year ago when I went home to New York for Christmas holiday. After 10 days traveling the subway, battling traffic, fighting crowds and taxicabs leaving me in their dust, I longed for the sanctity of my quiet apartment in the Nebraska suburbs.

I have struggled with this internal confession for some time. I haven't told my family yet though I have mentioned it to a few friends.

If a great offer comes along in my home city, I'll take it. But it's great to know what one wants out of life for the long term. And in the meantime, my three-year stint in Omaha has been a tremendous experience.

Friends have always stressed to me that no experience is ever wasted. And, that it is up to the individual to make the best of a situation.

That is what I've tried to do since moving to the Midwest.

I had always had an interest in teaching and upon my arrival, I put in an application for a position for an adjunct professor in the African-American Studies Department at the University of Nebraska. The application was accepted and for two years - four semesters - I taught Introduction to African-American Studies to predominantly white students. Each semester I had at least 50 students enrolled in my class and together we took a journey through black history that left me more proud of being black and hopefully made them more aware of the contributions my forefathers and mothers made to the country and the world. The lessons I learned from teaching have been immeasurable.

Also during that time, I maintained my full-time job covering suburban education at the Omaha *World Herald*.

The writer is a 1988 Columbia Journalism graduate

Black Alumni Network Newsletter (757) 591-2371
Wayne J. Dawkins, **editor**
Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall, E.R. Shipp, **contributing editors**
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Black Journalists The NABJ STORY
Wayne Dawkins
Updated, expanded edition

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Limited time DOUBLE DISCOUNT: Purchase from August Press for $10.50 (25 percent off) and an additional 25 percent will be **donated** to the NABJ affiliate chapter **scholarship fund** of the customer's choice.

Jobline

The Village Voice has these openings: **Managing producer** (manage development, production and implementation of projects and initiatives for www.villagevoice.com); send resume to Anne Williams, director of New Media; **designer** (design of articles and sections as assigned by the design director). Send resume to Ted Keller, design director, and **technical supervisor** (direction and management of IS technical staff during second shift hours). Send resume to Ted Hall., The Village Voice, 36 Cooper Square, New York, N.Y. 10003-7118. . .WHDH-TV, Boston (NBC), was looking for **weekend anchors.** Send inquiries to Bill Pohovey, news director, 7 Bullfinch Place, Boston, MA 02114. . . . The copy desk at *Business Week* magazine wants to increase its pool of **free-lancers.** Looking for a meticulous line editor and nimble headline writer who's collegial and enter-taining to work with. Business savvy not essential. Apply by letter only to Prudence Crowther, Deputy Copy Chief, *Business Week,* 1221 Sixth Ave., 39th floor, NYC 10014. . . . WHYY TV12 & FM 91 was looking for a **Marketing, Small Business Coordinator,** a motivated person to establish a small business program to build relationships, seek contributions and provide meaningful benefits for financial support of the station. Fund raising, sales or marketing experience essential. Send cover letter and resume to Deborah Palmer, WHYY Inc., 150 N. Sixth St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.

People

Reginald Stuart, '71, wrote Kemba's Nightmare Part II for *Emerge* magazine. It was the saga of Kemba Smith, the Virginia college student who is serving a mandatory 24 1/2 federal prison sentence for a first-time drug-related offense. Stuart first wrote about Smith in the May 1996 issue.The stories have gotten the attention of young people, parents, legislators and judges who question the fairness of the sentence. . . **Marjorie Valbrun, '86,** is moving to *The Wall Street Journal* this month to



Marjorie Valbrun

be a Washington-based national correspondent covering immigration and related issues. She has been a reporter with *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about six years and before that *The Miami Herald.* . . . **Ron Howell, '75,** who teaches journalism at Long Island University, wrote an article last month for *Newsday,* arguing to keep crusading black newspapers owned by blacks. He noted that LIU bestowed the George Polk career achievement award for the first time to an institution, the *Pittsburgh Courier,* which circulated nationally in the first half of 20th century . . . **Karen Turner, '85,** an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising at Temple University, will direct the Summer Seminar in London from July 6 through Aug. 4. The theme is "Spotlight on the British Media: News, Reviews and Scandals.". . .

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

The University of Georgia

Henry W. Grady
College of Journalism and Mass Communication

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSOCIATE OR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Department of Advertising and Public Relations at the University of Georgia invites applicants for a tenure-track associate or assistant professor position in public relations beginning fall 1998. Qualified candidates must have an established record of research or have demonstrated potential to gain national visibility through published research. Qualified candidates must be able to teach graduate courses, serve on graduate student committees and direct theses and dissertations. Undergraduate teaching opportunities in public relations include public relations communications, public relations administration, and public relations campaigns. A professional public relations orientation is desirable. Candidates must possess a Ph.D. or be near completion. Salary is competitive and based on qualifications and experience.

Applications must be received by **May 15, 1998** to receive consideration. Submit application letter, vita and names of three references to: Dr. Ruth Ann Weaver Lariscy, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Advertising and Public Relations, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. The University of Georgia is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action institution.

Disney/continued

contact with Disney World, for business or pleasure.

Along with the ubiquitous piped-in music and the setting – shabby-chic rendering of an African port town – my close encounter with this particular cast member was reminding me why I'd kept my distance from Disney up to this point.

But here I was in the thick of it.

"Come on, you can do it," the escort cooed.

Forget that I was in no mood to do it. Or that I maintain a resistance to hype a frivolity so fierce a friend once nicknamed me "leisure-impaired."

Or that I was irked at the way Disney has tapped into the warm, fuzzy longings many of us have for Africa and served up a facsimile so compelling the reporter next to me wept during the opening ceremony, saying she wished her mother could have seen the "Lion King"-inspired song-and-dance.

Or that I couldn't get out of my mind that for all the park's emphasis on the wonders of nature and the need for con-servation, this company had bulldozed a Central Florida cow pasture to construct fake 1,000-year-old baobab trees and rake in the tourist bucks.

(So far it's succeeded – Animal Kingdom packed in 30,000 people within it's first 90 minutes on opening day last month).

There was only one way out.

I faced my unwanted companion, flashed a smile as phony as my surroundings, and raced down the path faster than she could respond, "THAT'S it!"

The writer is a 1982 Columbia J-school graduate and National Public Radio correspondent.

'99 class

Continued from front page

applicants was accepted.

• People of color comprise about 27 percent of the new class (11 percent African-American, 10 percent Asian, 6 percent Hispanic). Thirteen percent of applicants did not list their race, particularly many of the three dozen students from California, where the Proposition 209 anti-affirmative action issue is strong.

• Women make up 60 percent of the new class.

• The average age of students in the Class of 1999 is 26.5, about the same as the current class.

• Forty of the students accepted are international. They include at least seven Fullbright scholars.

– Wayne Dawkins

Broadcast expanded

The upcoming year will mark the extension of the program to 10 months for broadcast students.

Broadcast students will spend August in New York learning technical tools – i.e., how to use equipment required of broadcasters (as opposed to print folks) in the pursuit of quality news stories.

Associate Professor David Klatell, coordinator of broadcast instruction, said in a J-school report "The faculty has come to realize that the demands of technology can't be accommodated in a nine-month program without reducing available time for reporting and writing."

In the same article, Dean Tom Goldstein called this extension of the school year "an important first step in introducing flexibility into the curriculum."

Advertisers:

The deadline to reserve space is the 15th of the month.

• Eighth page **$75** (two insertions, $125);

• quarter page **$125** (two insertions $200).

THANK YOU, March and April renewing and new subscribers from Baltimore; New York; Washington, D.C.; Princeton, N.J.; Chicago, North Jersey, Miami and U.S. Virgin Islands.

MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

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Newport News, VA 23606

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Two years, $38 (24 issues)

Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 6
JUNE 1998

New executive director for NABJ

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - The National Association of Black Journalists May 6 announced the hiring of Antoinette Allison Samuel as its new executive director.

Samuel, who has held an executive-level position at the National League of Cities (NLC) since 1994, joined the NABJ national office on June 1. She succeeds JoAnne Lyons Wooten, who was executive director from December 1996 until March 1998. (1995)

Vanessa Williams, NABJ president, said the organization is delighted to find an administrator with the level of experience shown by Samuel. "Toni impressed us with her management skills, her knowledge about what makes an effective membership association and her enthusiasmabout joining NABJ. We think she'll make an excellent addition to our team."

At the NLC, the nation's largest organization of municipal officials, Samuel was Director of the Center for Education and Information Resources, where she spearheaded programs that provided leadership, management and budgeting for four major operations. These operations included the design and implementation of programs and services in the areas of leadership training and skill development for elected officials; education and technical assistance through conferences, seminars, services and printed and online publications, database information services, and an information reference service for member cities.

Previously, Samuel served as senior policy analyst for the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families for the State of Maryland.

Countdown to D.C.

23rd annual NABJ Convention & Job Fair
Wednesday, July 29 to Sunday, Aug. 2

"Media and Power: Shaping Our Images"

To Register:
301-405-8500; fax 405-8555
www.nabj.org

Capturing African sights and sounds during Clinton tour

Lolis Eric Elie, '86, columnist with the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, wrote columns and dispatches from several African nations President Clinton toured in late March. Here's what we gleaned from four editions: March 23, "Ghana ready to meet Clinton," Accra's streets were jammed with people eager to get a glimpse of Clinton. Elie described street scenes Clinton missed. "He will not see the peddlers selling bananas and cigarettes and fried fish by kerosene lamp because electricity is only available 12 hours a day . . . he won't see Mrs. El-Hassan's shop, a charming cafe where the significance of Clinton's visit was being debated over beer rice balls and spicy goat meat stew Sunday afternoon.

"Ostensibly, the discussion was about whether Clinton's brief stay

Continued on back page

Technology, ethics talk of '88 class reunion

By **Toni Randolph**

NEW YORK –As probably true for most classes, the J-School Alumni Weekend brought back lots of memories for members of the Class of '88. For many of us, it was hard to believe that 10 years had gone by so quickly.

It seems like yesterday that we were gearing up for the Monday World Room lectures, fretting over progress on our Masters Projects and finding ways to deal with it all with by grabbing a quick bite and drink at the West End Cafe.

About 40 people, a quarter of the class, turned out for the weekend. Most of our initial conversations were spent catching up.

There's a good-sized contingent of Class of '88 members (Regina Holmes; Dele Olojede; Rob Parker and Mira Thomas) who've made their way to and through *Newsday*. There's another group authoring books.

We're spread out across the country and around the world covering major news events as well as local zoning board meetings.

Some of the positions we now hold are ones that we'd never considered a decade ago. One classmate, Mary Beth Regan, is starting an online column with her newspaper, *The Washington Post*. Her new position led to discussions about how technology has changed journalism.

We also talked about how much our industry has deteriorated. As our

Continued on back page

LA Bound

Thomas C. Fleming
REFLECTIONS ON BLACK HISTORY

As an 18-year-old in 1926, when I worked as a bellhop on the Emma Alexander, an intercoastal passenger ship between Seattle and San Diego, I didn't think it was a very hard job, but many of the black crew members quit without warning.

There might have been a woman they wanted to stay with in a certain port. And the job paid very little. With your tips, if you were a hard hustler, you probably could run up your earnings to $75 or $100 a month.

When we returned from the trip north and sailed into San Francisco Bay, the Emma stayed in port for more than 24 hours, and some of us who lived in the Bay Area were given time off. Mama and my sister Kate rented a room in Oakland, and their good landlady had assured me that I could make it my home without sleeping privileges whenever I came in town.

Back at the ship, I joined the other bellhops at the gang-plank, snatching the baggage that the porters did not pick up. Then we started ahead of the passengers, who followed us to their cabins. We would curse under our breath if they gave us a quarter or less tip.

The loading went on up until a half hour before sailing time. Then the bell captain would designate one of us to go around, clang a gong and shout, "All ashore that's going ashore!"

Friends and relatives who had accompanied the travelers slowly began drifting off the ship. We had to repeat the call several times.

When the last visitor had gone off, the pilot house gave a signal to the engine room by ringing a bell, and the great marine engines started upper. A tugboat came alongside, the sailors threw ropes to the tug, and then some longshoremen removed the great ropes from the steel capstans on the pier.

The huge propellors began to work, and the ship slowly backed into the channel, the hoarse blare of the ship's siren shattering the air. When we were far enough out to clear the pier, the tug turned the ship's prow towards the Golden Gate.

The bellhops would stand by the bell board that was located right off the dining room; it was a switchboard for the whole ship. When people would call in for a bellhop to do something for them, we'd go. And then we would patrol the deck, to serve the passengers who were lounging in big steamer chairs. We tried to provide as many comforts as possible.

All the waiters, porters and bellhops were black men. Some porters doubled as waiters while at sea; others took care of the cabins that the passengers occupied, like chambermaids. I don't remember seeing a single black passenger.

Whenever we neared a port, the ship would begin to slow down, and a great deal of bell clanging could be heard from the engine room. A tugboat would come alongside and snuggle the Emma to the pier.

From San Francisco, we sailed south to Wilmington harbor, one of the ports for Los Angeles. We discharged and took on passengers and cargo, then set sail for San Diego and Ensenada, Mexico. The ship didn't land in Mexico because there wasn't a good docking facility. Smaller, lighter vessels came out to take passengers ashore, where they bought goods and did sightseeing.

Then the Emma turned north and headed back to Wilmington, and I went into Los Angeles for the first time in my life, taking the commuter trains operated by the Southern Pacific Railway.

The trains fanned out of Los Angeles to a radius of about 60 miles, going into Riverside, Orange and San Bernardino counties. It was a big mistake when these fast electric trains were discarded. People could get about much faster in the metropolitan areas of San Francisco and Los Angeles than they can today.

Los Angeles had a lot more black people than anywhere else in California. They came for the entertainment industry, not because of industrial jobs. I wanted to see Central Avenue, as I had heard so much about the main street of black activity in the city of the angels.

There were several theaters along the street, and many barbershops, hairdressing parlors, restaurants, barbecue places and pool halls – all the small things that you'd find blacks occupied in, in any city in the United States. Street vendors sold hot dogs, chili and other edibles from pushcarts, on which some sort of fire was kept burning. They sold very cheaply and seemed to do a brisk business.

The Lincoln Theater was the big house on the street, for it not only presented motion pictures, but stage acts of top black entertainers who came through Los Angeles. I took in the Lincoln and enjoyed every minute.

There was a very good house band led by Claude Kennedy, and about five or six chorus girls. They went in the entertainment field in hopes of get-ting in the films too. That's why there was such a big concentration of them down there.

The Lincoln had black audiences primarily; you'd see a scattering of whites. They had the same kind of shows you'd see at the Apollo Theater in New York. There weren't so many of the big-name bands coming from the East, but Los Angeles had some good local black musicians, like Kid Ory, a trombone player who was already a national jazz legend, Curtis Moseby and his Blue Blowers, and Lionel Hampton, who would arrive in 1927, at the very beginning of his career.

Fleming, 90, writes for the Sun-Reporter, San Francisco's African American weekly.

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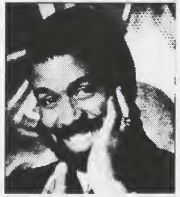
The Village Voice has these openings: **associate editor/ research** (ensure the accuracy and integrity – especially legal issues – of editorial content).
Responsibilities: fact checking; legal vetting; working closely with editors, writers, and lawyers, including making arrangements with editors to ensure that corrections and changes get into articles. Send resume to Athima Chansanchai:

the village VOICE

chief of research. Also, **photo researcher:** Creative photo research and developing outside photo sources (including picture agencies, wire services, private collectors, galleries, etc.). Send resume to Meg Handler, The Village Voice, 36 Cooper Square, New York, N.Y. 10003-7118. . .
The *San Francisco Chronicle* seeks a **personal finance writer**
The San Francisco Chronicle is seeking an experienced and talented reporter to cover personal finance for the Business section.
The ideal candidate has excellent reporting and writing skills and can demonstrate strong knowledge of stocks, mutual funds, insurance, taxes and other personal finance issues. We are looking for a journalist who has excellent news judgment and a keen interest in writing about personal finance for savvy as well as not-so-savvy business readers. At least three years' experience at a metropolitan daily newspaper is preferred.
Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume and as many as 10 writing clips to:
Marianne Chin, Director of Editorial Hiring and Development, San Francisco Chronicle 901 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103 Fax (415) 495-3843
e-mail: mchin@sfgate.com
Check out The Chronicle's website at www.sfgate.com
The San Francisco Chronicle is the largest daily newspaper in Northern California, with a daily circulation of about 500,000. The Chronicle is an equal opportunity employer that aspires to have an editorial work force that mirrors the diversity of the workforce of the UnitedStates.
. . WHDH-TV, the NBC-affiliate in Boston, is currently looking for two full-time **newswriters.** Two years major market experience required. Send all inquiries to Peter Roghaar, Senior Executive Producer, WHDH-TV 7 Bulfinch Place., Boston, MA 02114
The News & Observer, a 160,000 circulation daily, 200,000 Sunday paper in Raleigh, North Carolina, has an opening for a talented, motivated team player in the **digital imaging** department. The successful candidate must have proven skills with Photoshop 4.0, film and flatbed scanning experience and a good eye for color and b&w image toning. Strong Macintosh skills and the ability to work well in a fast-paced, deadline sensitive environment are musts. A background in photography and/or prepress work would be very helpful. Work schedule will include night and weekend work. If you are intested in joining a great team at a great newspaper in a great place to live, send a cover letter and resume to: John Hansen
Advance Picture Editor
The News & Observer
215 S. McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
email: hansen@nando.com

People

Frank McCoy, '86, wrote the cover story for the spring *American Benefactor* magazine on "Good Sports: Big egos, big paychecks – and bigger hearts than you'd think." McCoy interviewed Lee Steinberg, the sports agent who was reportedly the inspiration for the film "Jerry Maguire." Steinberg said a well-known NFL running back's response to the notion of giving back to the community was, "that's great, but I'm my own charity." McCoy wrote, "That's not the norm. Overwhelmingly, athletes give back in some fashion, and their generosity grows with age and experience." . . .



Frank Dexter Brown

Author **James McBride, '80,** rubbed shoulders with the New York literati - glitterati crowd who raised $1 million for Literacy Partners. McBride was among authors reading from their works, reported USA TODAY columnist Jeannie Williams. McBride read from his bestseller, *The Color of Water,* about growing up one of 12 children of a Jewish mother and black father and stepfather. He told the celebs kind people like the Literacy donors were the reason "I'm in here regaling you with stories and not outside waiting with a baseball bat." McBride with is working with Quincy Jones on the composer's autobiography, due in 1999 . . .
Frank Dexter Brown, '81, wrote about the state of Black Music this month for *BET Weekend* magazine, "Innovators, perpetrators and hit makers from Marley to Puffy." He is founder of Culture Collective Media, which archives and documents the history and culture of people of color.

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

THANK YOU, May renewing and new subscribers from New York, N.Y. (2); St. Albans, N.Y.; Silver Spring, Md.; Raleigh, N.C.; Alexandria, Va.and Brooklyn, N.Y.

'88 reunion

Continued from front page

weekend kicked off, a California man committed suicide as television cameras pumped live coverage of the tragedy into homes during children's programming. We were asking ourselves how much is too much, when do we stop and who makes those decisions.

The seemingly never-ending discussion about O.J. Simpson reared its head several times when another classmate, Merv Keizer of GQ, filled us in on one of his activities during the past decade: helping Los Angeles prosecutor Marcia Clark research her book on the O.J. Simpson trial.

As the weekend wound down, we promised to keep in better touch with each other so that we don't have to wait another 10 years to catch up with each other. And now that most of us have e-mail, we probably will.

The writer, a 1988 graduate, is a reporter with National Public Radio affiliate WBUR-FM 90.9 in Boston

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- Eighth page **$75** (two insertions, $125);
- quarter page **$125** (two insertions $200).

Africa tour

Continued from front page

here – less than 24 hours – should be characterized as a stopover or a visit. Is Ghana to be Clinton's "Gateway to Africa," as the government proclaims, or is it little more than a refueling stop?"

March 24, below the front page centerpiece photo of some of the 500,000 people in Accra swarming Clinton in Independence Square, was Elie's dispatch, "Political spin aside, Ghanaians full of fervor."

Harruna Attah, an editor of the twice weekly opposition newspaper, The Statesman, told Elie that if the visit were to be taken seriously as a launching pad for Clinton's Africa policy, it should have included a speech to the Ghanaian Parliament. Instead, Clinton pitched his remarks to a mass audience. "They have turned the Clinton visit into a circus which therefore takes away from the substance that some of us would have expected," Attah said.

March 30, "Activist hid Mandela, was arrested for protests." The front page centerpiece photo is of Wolfie Kodesh, 79, a white, Jewish South African, holding a framed 1961 portrait of Nelson Mandela. It is signed "Dear Wolfie: I've never had a more sincere colleague. I look forward to many years of collective effort on our part. 10/35/62 Nel." Kodesh hid Mandela from the apartheid authorities. They were both caught. Mandela was imprisoned. Kodesh was exiled but returned to the new South Africa led by President Mandela.

April 1, "Slavery's door of no return draws tourists to Senegal." From Dakar, Elie wrote that Goree Island, the center of Clinton's itinerary that day, was a tourist destination as well as a monument to slavery.

A guide named Soce said, "We've had people slam their fists into the wall, others cry uncontrollably and others just scream out in anger because it is so personal, especially for blacks."

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Wayne Dawkins

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Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Anniversary issue
18 years

Volume 18, No. 7
JULY 1998

Capital convention

Twenty third annual NABJ Convention & Job Fair, Wednesday, **July 29** to Sunday, **Aug. 2.**

Theme:"Media and Power: Shaping Our Images."

Venues: Grand Hyatt Hotel Washington (800)233-1234; Renaissance Hotel Washington, (800) 468-3571 and Washington Convention Center.

Seventy (70) workshops scheduled.

Plenary sessions include:

- Race in America: Covering the Divide.
- Color and Coverage: Public Officials and the Media.
- The Africa No One Knows: Changing Image of the Continent.

Bulletin:

The June 26 pre-registratiion deadline was extended through **Monday, July 6,** for payments made by corporate check, money order or credit card (Master Card and VISA).

The NABJ website (www.nabj.org) contains registration forms, a preliminary schedule, travel and hotel information, confirmed speakers and registration for **super workshops** sponsored by Time, Inc., The New York Times, The Washington Post and the Poynter Institute.

There is information posted on individual critique sessions sponsored by the National Conference of Editorial Writers and information about the Career Resource Center that will be operating during the convention.

The forms are designed to be printed from your computer and mailed (or faxed, where relevant) to the national office. 301-405-8500; fax 405-8555

Annual Columbia J-School Alumni Breakfast - NABJ

8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1 inside the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel.

RSVP by e-mail to wdawk69643@aol.com. We will need a head count to give the restaurant.

Magazine enters book business

Black Enterprise magazine is launching a book division, announced Caroline V. Clarke, J-'87.

She said it will be a joint venture with publisher John Wiley & Sons.

Clarke is editor of B.E. Books in addition to editor-at-large of the magazine.

"I am the contact for anyone writing a business book," she said. "I welcome any and all proposals, along with clips and resume. I'm fielding queries as well as looking for writers to match with ideas already in development."

The first book, *Titans of the B.E. 100,* is due in stores in January 1999.

Clarke can be reached at B.E., 130 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011-4399. Tele (212)242-8000, fax 886-9610.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Women and the Written Word: A Cuba Reality Tour and Writing Workshop by and for Women, Oct. 16-24

Evelyn C. White, 'J-'85, visiting scholar in Women's Studies at Mills College, Oakland, Calif., is one of the trip leaders. She said, "As I envision the Global Exchange trip, it would provide a minimum of nine hours, over the course of three days, during which women would work exclusively on their writing. These sessions would be comprised of specific writing exercises devised by myself, discussions about the craft of writing and opportunities for the women

Continued on back page

Joyce Ingram, 42, innovative editor

Joyce Cecile Ingram, 42, deputy managing editor of the *Virginian-Pilot* of Norfolk, Va., died June 2 in Virginia Beach.

At the *Virginian-Pilot* she directed coverage of national news that affected Hampton Roads. That included military, medicine, environment and business, sports and features.

Ingram was the highest-ranking African-American journalist in the newspaper's history. She joined the newspaper in 1994.

Overall, her daily journalism career spanned 20 years.

For a decade beginning in January 1984 she held various editing posts at the *Philadelphia Daily News*. She conceived and directed the ground breaking "Children and Violence" series, a three-year crusade that resulted in reforms, solutions and state and regional awards.

As a features editor she came up with a new name for the section, YO! It added even more sass to the already spunky tabloid.

Before Philadelphia, her career began at Westchester-Rockland, N.Y. Newspapers (now Gannett Suburban Newspapers). She was a reporter in Mount Vernon (*Daily Argus*), then Yonkers (*Herald-Statesman*), and after that became an assistant metro editor in White Plains (*Reporter-Dispatch*).

In Westchester, she met Wayne Dawkins. They were married in 1982 and divorced in 1987.

She was a steady, skillful hand editing the *Black Alumni Network* newsletter in the 1980s and a key line editor of the *NABJ Journal* when it went from a newsletter to tabloid-size newspaper in 1985.

Ingram was remembered fondly by friends and colleagues for her mercurial nature. She was sharp-tongued at times, painfully shy at others. She was decisive and demanding as an editor.

A *Virginian-Pilot* staffer said she was even manipulative sometimes "if the greater good was better journalism."

Away from the job she fretted if she was up to the task. But people who knew her knew better.

She was an avid art collector and devotee of the widest range of jazz from blues, bop, cool to Brazilian rhythms.

Tall and statuesque, she was at times a living Monet. In a newsroom sea of light blue and khaki, she favored rich colors in elegant designs.

She was a voracious reader and continued to study after graduation from Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism in 1977. Ingram was a member of the summer 1982 class of the IJE Editing Program for Minority Journalists at the University of Arizona. She was a 1992 Knight Fellow at Stanford University .

She is survived by her mother, Evor of Westbury, N.Y.; sisters Barbara Ingram-Edmonds of Princeton, N.J. and Gail Ingram of Delray Beach, Fla., and devoted friend, Dr. Joseph Brown of North Carolina.

Two weeks before Fathers Day, Ingram was buried next to her father William Leroy Ingram, an Air Force jet pilot in the1950s and career engineer for the telephone company.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, 1211 Preservation Parkway, Oakland, CA 94612.

– *Wayne Dawkins*

Remembering Joyce Ingram

"A contradictory, complex person who had the soul of a poet and the heart of a tiger" – **Eileen Welson,** Knight Fellow, *Albuquerque Tribune.*

"She could be so up-front and tough-minded. But she felt things very deeply." – **Marvin Lake,** recruiting director, *Virginian-Pilot.*

"She was always reading so much. She was, like *the* student, always a great writer, very smart. She could also make you laugh in the craziest situations, the most nerve-wracking and tense situations." – **Barbara Ingram-Edmonds,** sister.

Black Alumni Network
Newsletter (757) 591-2371
Wayne J. Dawkins, **editor**
Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall, E.R. Shipp, **contributing editors**
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Contact William W. Sutton Jr., deputy managing editor, News & Observer, 215 S. McDowell St., Raleigh, NC 27602. Or e-mail sutton@nando.com . . . The *Journal Gazette* newspaper in Fort Wayne, Ind., seeks a **reporter** who has some business writing experience and a strong interest in business writing. We are looking for a reporter who can cover labor and industry, especially the auto industry, and general assignments as needed. We are looking for talent, so city-side reporters who have handled stories on government budgets or reporters who have written occasional business stories are welcome to apply. Contact Donna Whitaker Rogers, business editor, The Journal Gazette, 600 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802; (219) 461-8200 at work (we are on Central time until October) or e-mail DDWRogers@aol.com.

. . . *The News-Sentinel*, a six-day Knight-Ridder p.m. and a great place to work, is looking for a creative **designer** to shape Page One. Seeking: someone who understands traditional news play but strives to be original and knows when to go all-out, especially with the centerpiece packages and promos. Because the paper pushes for single-copy sales, a lot of emphasis is on above-the-fold appearance to grab potential readers' attention. The paper takes risks. A cooperative spirit is necessary; infographics abilities, copy editing background or hand illustration skills are pluses. Virtually everyone in the newsroom works daytime hours. Fort Wayne is a comfortable city with several colleges, many churches, and minor league baseball, basketball and hockey teams, ballet, a symphony orchestra and a great zoo. Contact Mark Thompson-Kolar, assistant managing editor, The *News-Sentinel*, 600 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Or call (800)444-3303, ext. 8713.

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People

E.R. Shipp, '79, has been asked to become the next ombudsman at *The Washington Post*, a position most recently held by Geneva Overholser. Shipp, a full-time member of the Columbia University J-school faculty since 1994, will take a 2-year leave of absence to take on the role. Shipp was a 1996 Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary. . . . **Esther Iverem, `83,** of *The Washington Post*, chronicled a day in the life of commentator Tavis Smiley, a fixture on Black Entertainment Television and the Tom Joyner Morning Show ("Driving on the Left: BET's Tavis Smiley, Winning Friends and Influencing People the Hard Way," June 22). Smiley energized listener-viewers who confronted confronted a radio representative who urged advertisers not to buy time on black and Spanish language stations. He has also spurred voter registration drives and rallied for full participation in the 2000 Census. Smiley, 33,

Continued on back page

Budget Update

Balance before January 1998 issue	**$-162**
Revenues, Dec. 16 to June 15, 1998	959
Subtotal	797
Expenses: printing, postage, January to June 1998	675
Balance before July 1998 issue	**$ +122**

Thanks to those who answered the distress call and erased an operating deficit. Now we want to grow. If your subscription lapsed, please renew. If you've moved, update your address. WJD

People

Continued

according to Iverem's report, is making a name for himself as a striving member of Generation X – a generation of African-Americans usually described as hip-hopped and

lost. . . . **A'Lelia Bundles, `76,** tireless promoter of her famous forebear, great-great-grandmother Madam C.J. Walker, was featured in a Donna Britt *Washington Post* column May 15 about the success of the Walker stamp issued in February. In March Bundles was getting calls that the stamp was selling out

around the country. The postal service printed 45 million but the average run for a stamp is 75 million. The column urged readers to write to the Postal Service and urge a reprinting

of the stamp. . . .**Elizabeth Atkins Bowman, `91,** published *White Chocolate* (Forge, $23.95), a thriller that explores biracial identity.

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

Global Exchange

Continued



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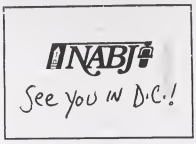
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Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 8
AUGUST 1998

E.R. Shipp becomes ombudsman of Washington Post

By **Cheryl Devall**

The title, she could do without. But almost everything else about her new position as ombudsman for *The Washington Post* appeals to E.R. Shipp, '79, Columbia J-school professor and Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the New York *Daily News*. Shipp plans to take a leave of absence from both New York institutions during a two-year term in Washington, with the option of a third year.

After *Post* executives approached her for the job, Shipp commenced research on a newspaper that's attracted steady criticism from both the federal establishment and D.C.'s black majority population.

"I don't go into this blindly or naively," she says. "I think the ombudsman has a chance to look into all the concerns that have been raised and have some say into issues that need to be addressed."

As the *Post* readers' representative, internal critic and guardian of accountability, Shipp says ombudsman is "a word I hope to change." To what, she's not yet sure – "monitor" is one possibility.

But where Shipp goes, change tends to follow. and as far as she's concerned, her appointment couldn't be more timely.

There's been an explosion of issues where some kind of monitor could have helped news organizations avoid the problems we've seen,"

Continued on next page

Big, brassy convention

Record 3,500 attend; future jobs in jeopardy?

By **Wayne Dawkins**

WASHINGTON – Another annual attendance record was set this month at the National Association of Black Journalists convention. At the closing banquet Aug. 1, President Vanessa Williams announced that 3,500 people registered, surpassing the 3,300 who came to Chicago last year.

More than attendance, many participants were struck by the overwhelming volume of activities - plenary sessions, workshops, reservation-only super workshops, jobs fair and exhibit area, gala receptions and a handful of film sneak previews and premieres.

With about a dozen scheduled activities occurring at once every hour from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a full plate of social activities all night, attendees coped with too many people to see, places to go and not enough time.

Attendees lodged in the Grand Hyatt and Renaissance hotels and went to sessions in the cavernous Washington Convention Center across the street.

In addition to professional development, job hunting, networking and reuniting with family and friends, many NABJ members focused on future of black and other minority journalists in America. That was because of recent news industry, government and judicial decisions.

Seattle, ASNE, FCC

Members were divided on whether to withdraw from the scheduled Unity 1999 convention with Hispanic, Asian American and Native American journalists in Seattle next July.

A Washington State referendum banning all forms of affirmative action is scheduled for a November vote. The referendum is similar to California Proposition 209 that eliminated affirmative action in that state in 1996.

A scheduled 90-minute association business meeting had to be extended two additional hours so the Seattle

What attracts people to the convention?

By **Toni Randolph**

WASHINGTON – The last time the convention was held here in 1980, about 200 NABJ members came. This year, The 23rd annual NABJ Convention and Job Fair attracted a record 3,500 attendees.

More new faces showed up; many familiar ones returned.

First-time attendee David Seals, a news producer at WTMH-TV in New Haven, Conn., said "I'm here to network and meet some folks in the business I haven't met before." Seals said he didn't attend in the past because it was too expensive. When he registered this year, he was looking for work and decided it was a good investment.

Another first-timer, Caril Fernandes, a researcher at WKMG-

Continued on back page

ombudsman

Continued from front page

Shipp says, listing as examples the fabricated quotes and stories of Stephen Glass at *The New Republic* and Patricia Smith at *The Boston Globe*, CNN's repudiation of its nerve gas story and the *Cincinnati Enquirer's* retraction of its Chiquita Brands investigation.

She regards her new job as an opportunity to influence the craft beyond the *Post* as did her predecessors Geneva Overholser, who spoke frequently to journalism organizations and, during the Watergate era, the late Robert Maynard, the only other African-American to have held the position.

Shipp says she hopes to continue at the Post what she's sought to do at the J-school. "What I do as a journalism professor anyway is try to help a future generation of journalists think about some of the things that are not so perfect in this business, and perhaps come up with more honest ways to do our jobs."

Part of that task involves knowing and reflecting the community in which the paper operates, which few news organizations have done to her satisfaction.

Washington, Shipp says, "looks like an interesting city, with a very large, educated middle class black population. They have some other things too, but that in particular is intriguing to me because it's concentrated, unlike in New York's metropolitan area. It seems to me inevitable that you would be in the midst of interesting people."

Friends in the Washington area have already suggested that she relocate to the polyglot Adams-Morgan neighborhood, and Shipp says she's exploring some kind of relationship with Howard University during her term as ombudsman.

While she anticipates the challenge of representing and provoking a new institution, Shipp says she is concerned about not being available to the next few classes of black J-school students. As one of three African-Americans on the full-time faculty, she says, "I have been the main person to try and reach out to incoming black students," acting as an informal adviser, hosting gatherings at her home and supervising the *Bronx Beat* newspaper during the spring semester.

> Ombudsman, Shipp says, is "a word I hope to change." To what, she's not yet sure – "monitor" is one possibility

Noting that many former students who e-mailed their congratulations also asked what would become of the paper, Shipp admits, "I'm concerned there won't be any to care as much as I do."

She says she hopes to contribute in some way during her absence. Maintaining other connections to New York will be a priority, she says, insisting that she won't miss communion at Abyssinian Baptist Church on the third Sunday of each month.

"I don't dread anything about going through this (career) door," she says. "The thing I dread is packing up and moving (from) this apartment. I've had it 10 years."

The writer, a 1982 Columbia Journalism graduate, is a Miami-based National Public Radio correspondent.

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Why attend?

Continued from front page

TV in Orlando, Fla., said cost has been a factor for her, too but the site this year made it easier for her to attend. She stayed with family members who live in the Washington area.

Fernandes was impressed with the computer workshops. "I'm not yet computer savvy, but I'm interested," she said. "Those two sessions inspired me to learn more."

She was disappointed that many interesting workshops were scheduled at the same time.

The job fair was the main reason Darcell Rockett, J-'98, attended. "It's one-stop shopping." she said.

Rockett said the trip was also a chance to see family and friends. This was her second convention.

Some people compare the convention to a family reunion. Others liken it to a religious experience.

For still others, it's one big party.

The parties are a big part of every NABJ convention. But New York Daily News columnist E.R. Shipp, J-'79, isn't interested. "I did not come to boogie," she said. Shipp has attended nearly every convention for the past 15 years. She said her purpose is to renew her commitment to journalism, serve as a mentor to younger people in the business and get insights from forums.

When Barbara Rodgers, reporter/anchor with KPIX -TV in San Francisco started coming to conventions in 1981, she said fellow black journalists helped comfort her as she dealt with difficulties on her job. Since then, she's watched the organization grow, but she's concerned that the focus is different now and she worries about the future of NABJ. "No one wants to run the organization. No one wants to work," said Rodgers, deputy region 10 director (West Coast states). She citied recent uncontested races for major NABJ offices, including president.

Rodgers said if younger journalists

Continued on next page

are willing to take advantage of current opportunities, but aren't willing to work at the national and local levels to ensure they'll continue, there may not be much of a job fair convention or organization in the future.

Noluthando Crockett, the former National Public Radio correspondent known as Phyllis, attended the convention for the first time since Unity '94 in Atlanta.

She is president of Chronicle Communications, a South Africa-based media management and training and consulting company. Her attendance coincided with other business in Washington. She said she missed a number of conventions because "It is not 'it' anymore for me." She called herself a "young elder," not old enough to be old, but too old for the jobs fair and many workshops.

Crockett recommended that NABJ programmers start looking at some workshops on retirement and members like her making the transition out of hard-core news.

The writer, a 1982 Columbia Journalism graduate, is a Boston-based National Public Radio correspondent.

'Stella' and a post-premiere spectacle

By **Donnette Dunbar**

WASHINGTON – Most people who attended NABJ's premier July 29 of the novel-turned-movie "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," were most impressed with what they saw on the big screen. Director Kevin Sullivan did a marvelous job of transforming Terry McMillan's prose into a visual odyssey on film.

Jamaica, with its sun-kissed sandy beaches look absolutely exquisite though they paled in comparison next to Angela Bassett's stunning beauty. Bassett is the bass that keeps Stella grooving, turning in a powerful performance as a high-powered stock broker who has everything but a tender, loving intimate relationship.

The near capacity audience – 800 tickets were dispensed – couldn't stop talking about the friendship between Bassett's character, Stella and Whoopi Goldberg's Delilah. Nor could the women get enough of Taye Diggs, the young man of 20, with whom Stella grooved.

But what really got tongues wagging was McMillan's performance after the film's preview.

The picture ended close to midnight and it was clear that McMillan did not want to engage in idle repartee with her fans, people who clearly adore her books and have continued to buy her books and pay money to see her films.

During the 45-minute Q&A, McMillan rolled her eyes at questions she deemed silly or inappropriate.

A lot of them were stupid. Reporters acted like groupies, prefacing each statement – one could hardly call them questions – with kudos for the actors and the film.

The last straw for many reporters came when a young reporter began her question with "lush, lavish . . ."

Two journalists in the middle row groaned loudly and got up to leave. McMillan rested her head on the table in apparent agony. Who could blame her?

Still, McMillian should have remembered she was there in a professional capacity. Most people will forgive the temperamental nature of an artist, but rudeness is the exception.

What made McMillan's behavior even worse was the grace of Bassett. She was obviously trying to make the best of a bad situation, answering trite questions with diplomacy and treating each reporter/fan with a dignity they did not earn or deserve.

The writer, a 1988 Columbia Journalism graduate, is with the Omaha World-Herald.

Jobline

The Chronicle of Higher Education seeks a **senior editor** for its Athletics Section. Candidates should have excellent writing, editing and organizational skills. Contact Scott Jaschik, managing editor, The Chronicle of Higher Education, 1255 23rd St. NW, suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20037. Or call (202) 466-1005, e-mail, scott.jaschik@chronicle.com . . . KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh seeks a **senior news promo producer.** Must have knowledge of linear and non-linear editing systems and know your way around an A/B suite. Write to Michael Gerst, director of marketing, KDKA-TV, One Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. . . WGBH-TV, Boston has openings in **educational outreach** and **access technology, general administration, promotion** and **fund raising.** It seeks a **research assistant** for on-line and a **series researcher** for FRONTLINE. http://www.wgbh.org/wgbh/jobs/. . . . *The Seattle Times* (227,000 daily) seeks two high-end **metro assigning editors** to work with reporting teams in specialty coverage areas. Send cover letter, resume and samples to Patricia Foote, assistant managing editor, The Seattle Times, P.O. Box 70, Seattle, WA 98111. Describe your approach to story, editing, development and the editor-reporter relationship. . . *The Village VOICE* seeks an **associate editor.** Required: editorial experience, exceptional organizational skills, and a passion for film and music. In addition to line editing reviews and features, the associate editor will work on film and music supplements. Send resume to Mihlee Robinson, Village VOICE, 36 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003-7118.

More NABJ convention coverage in the September newsletter.

(People)
Will return in September

THANK YOU, July and August renewing and new subscribers from New York (5); St. Petersburg, Fla.; Cleveland Heights, Ohio; and Northern New Jersey

Convention

Continued from front page

question could be discussed and debated by members. Pulling out of the convention and breaking hotel and assembly hall contracts means forfeiture of $600,000 to $900,000 in deposits, said officers and members. Others added that if NABJ bolted, it could bankrupt one of the smaller minority journalism associations.

Nevertheless, many members argued passionately that NABJ should not meet in a venue that was attempting to dismantle affirmative action. The board of directors decided to wait for the November vote before deciding whether to stick with the plan to participate in Unity '99.

The association also agreed to file a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the Federal Communication Commission appeal of federal court decision to eliminate equal employment opportunity hiring rules for broadcast journalism.

"Diversity in America today is under legal assault," FCC Chairman William Kennard told NABJ members at the July 30 newsmaker luncheon. "African-Americans bring a unique perspective (to broadcast coverage). I bring that unique perspective to the FCC. It matters because race matters."

Kennard said that nearly 20 percent of full-time broadcast news employees in 1997 were minorities; women of all races amounted to 41 percent. In 1971, three years after the equal employment opportunity rules were in effect, minorities were 9 percent of the work force, women, 23 percent.

In the newspaper business Vanessa Williams and other officers urged members to speak up and lobby the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) to stick to a commitment to strive for racial parity in newsrooms.

ASNE conceded it will not reach the goal it set 20 years ago to achieve parity by 2000. Minorities represent 11.5 percent of the work force; the general population is 27 percent people of color.

Robin Stone, vice president-print, told 150 people who attended the July 31 business meeting that ASNE wanted to extend the deadline to 2010 and lower the percentage goal.

"Some in ASNE are trying to distance itself from its very noble mission," said Stone. "Some recommended setting different goals in big cities and letting small cities off the hook."

Sidmel Estes-Sumpter, NABJ president from 1991-93, said ASNE members were divided on what minority goals should be in the 21st century. "We need to work with forces in ASNE who want to put out a much more progressive report," she said.

Africa Outreach

Africa, said MacArthur DeShazer, executive director of The National Summit on Africa, "is the one continent Americans know least about, but one we have the most opinions about, mostly negative. Journalists often reinforce those views."

At a plenary session called "The Africa No One Knows: Changing the Image of a Continent," diplomats and policy experts attempted to broaden understanding.

About 300 members attended the session that was going on the same time as the contentious business meeting July 31. Seven African ambassadors sat in the audience and Ugandan ambassador Edith Sempala was among the six panelists.

Susan Rice, assistant U.S. secretary of state for African Affairs, said two-thirds of Africa's 50 nations are instituting economic reforms.

"Today," said Rice, "a new generation of Africans are coming of age, raised in democracy and relieved of Cold War divisions."

Rice said the 1998 Africa Growth and Opportunity Act was the most important legislation regarding Africa since 1986 when economic sanctions were placed on former apartheid South Africa. The 1998 trade bill "was based on a controversial premise," said Rice: treating Africa like the rest of the world. She urged the Senate to remove fast-track conditions that was tacked on the bill and pass it, like the House of Representatives.

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Black
Alumni
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Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 9
SEPTEMBER 1998

'Naked Acts,' feature film by '86 alumna

NEW YORK – We know "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and we can guess "Why Do Fools Fall in Love."

But what about the film Variety touted as "fresh, funny and original," the one truly independent film that offers an alternative movie-going experience to the African-American women targeted by Hollywood this fall?

Filmmaker Bridgett M. Davis' debut feature "Naked Acts" opens theatrically in New York City on Friday, Sept. 25 at the Thalia Theater, 250 W. 95th St. (**Press screening** 7 p.m. **Sept. 10**).

The film intricately explores virgin territory for the big screen: the issue of black women and body image.

Described by *Variety's* film critic as the film "people will be falling over on another to claim they have discovered," "Naked Acts" tells the story of Cicely, an actress, who has recently lost 57 pounds and has landed her first role in a low-budget art film. She soon learns that the role requires a nude scene. Her dilemma: How to keep her clothes on and keep her part?

Cicely goes on a personal journey that unveils a secret she once kept hidden beneath her girth. Along the way, she discovers that emotional nakedness is far more

Continued on back page

Campaign begins to establish J-scholarship

By **Gayle Pollard Terry**

Students entering Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in September can expect to pay $40,000 for tuition and living expenses.

Add to that amount any expenses needed to complete that all important master's project.

Some black students, who are loaded up with loans, grants, scholarships and limited savings, still need our help.

For some, a laptop computer would encourage success.

For others who run out of money, a $500 grant would allow them to complete that master's project.

For a few, enough money to eat regularly would make a difference.

A Black Alumni Network scholarship can answer these needs. A special fund has been set up by E.R. Shipp, who is currently on leave from Columbia to work as the ombudsman for *The Washington Post*. Her generous contribution started the scholarship endowment, but no funds can be disbursed until we raise at least $25,000. When we reach the total, Shipp with the advice of other black alumni will set up criteria for disbursement.

A laptop loan program, a project stipend, an emergency fund, a gap award were among the ideas discussed at the annual BAN breakfast held at NABJ in Washington, D.C. Aug. 1. Nothing has been decided, and Shipp, J-'79, Angela Chatman, J-'77 and I welcome any suggestions.

Anyone can contribute. Alumni, friends, family, classmates, colleagues, co-workers. Many journalists

Continued on back page



RTNDA, the Association of Electronic Journalists, holds its annual convention Wednesday, **Sept. 23** to Saturday, **Sept. 26** in San Antonio, Texas.

Ethics, investigative reporting, feature reporting, diversity in the industry and raising broadcast standards will be among the topics discussed. Program tracks are television, radio, management, student, reporter/producer and technology.

On-site **registration** for members range from $565-$665 for professionals, $270 for students and $235 for retirees. Credit card payments are accepted. Contact RTNDA, 1000 Connecticut Ave. NW, suite 615, Washington, DC 20036-5302.

Or call (800) 80-RTNDA or fax to (202) 223-4007.

Convention notes

Film fest, DuBois speaker, Africa news, paying dues

By **Wayne Dawkins**

A limited number of convention goers were treated to a sneak preview of "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," ("'Stella' and post-premiere spectacle," B.A.N., August) but there were other fine film premieres.

"John Henrik Clarke: A Great and Mighty Walk," was a documentary on the life of the Afrocentric historian , 82, who died two weeks before the convention.

"Line's" was the new cable siteom about a black-owned bar directed by Tim Reid ("Frank's Place," "WKRP in Cincinnati").

"Down in the Delta" was a new film directed by Maya Angelou and staring Alfre Woodard, Loretta Devine and Al Freeman Jr.

"Sister, I'm Sorry," was a docu-drama presenting testimony by women who were sexually assaulted, abandoned and mentally and physically abused. It featured actors Blair Underwood and Michael Beach and was hosted by Margaret Avery.

Numbers crunch

At the business meeting, the board announced that it is apparently time to increase member dues.

Since the last hike in 1991 it has been $60 for full members, $35 for associates and $20 for students.

Member dues fund only 7 percent of the $2 million association operating budget, reported regional directors and membership committee co-chairs Courtus Fuller and Roxanne Jones. Sixty percent of 3,000 members on the rolls before the convention were full members.

Pinpoint strategy

WEB DuBois lecturer Kimberly Crenshaw, professor of law at Columbia University and UCLA, urged 50 attendees Saturday morning not to let skin color define allegiances. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was her model of a harmful black leader who won broad support based on his race rather that his ideas.

"We made Clarence Thomas in ways we did not realize," said Crenshaw.

"Senators were unsure how to vote. They told us: Do the math. Conservative Republicans lined up behind Thomas; so did senators with black Democratic majorities.

"Three votes could have gone either way.

"There was a 'Pinpoint strategy': How to get a black person to the court without being 'Borked.'

"We got played on this."

Crenshaw counseled against repeat mistakes. "We have to distinguish our Mandelas from our Buthelezis," she said, comparing Thomas to the duplicitous Mandela rival. Instead, she advised, "Treat our political capital like hard-earned money. Make sure our capital is well spent."

She also urged attendees to context reactionary ideology, regardless of race. "Reactionary politics," she said, "have legitimacy in the black community where once they did not." Crenshaw cited people who defend the existence of black Confederates and slave holders and are opponents of civil rights.

The Africa no one knows

Africa, said MacArthur DeShazer, executive director of The National Summit on Africa, "is the one continent Americans know least about, but one we have the most opinions about, mostly negative. Journalists often reinforce those views."

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Actor Danny Glover, this year appointed U.N. Goodwill ambassador to Africa, said he accepted the role to extend the tradition of artists such as Paul Robeson and Harry Belafonte.

Glover briefed the audience on his two-week visit to urban areas and rural villages in South Africa and Namibia.

"I saw people attempting to build and learn and change their lives," he said. "These were stories that were profound. You as journalists need to tell these stories."

DeShazer said a Georgetown University survey reported that African immigrants in America have the highest level of income and education, second only to Canadians.

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Novel idea

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Black Alumni Network
Newsletter (757) 591-2371
Wayne J. Dawkins, **editor**
Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall, E.R. Shipp, **contributing editors**
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Jobline

Atevo Travel, a fast-paced Web travel site, seeks and experienced **editor** to content and copy edit travel features, news articles and newsletters. Send resume, cover letter and three writing samples to Editorial department, Atevo, Inc., 1633 Bayshore Hwy., Suite 225, Burlingame, CA 94010. Web site: www.atevo.com . . . Long Island University, the nation's eighth-largest private university, seeks a **communications associate,** who would serve as managing editor of the alumni magazine. Send resume and four writing samples to Debra Annibell, Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville, NY 11548 . . . *The Toledo Blade* seeks **copy editors,** a **news editor** and an **assistant city editor.** Contact Todd Duncan, assistant to the editor (412) 263-3870 or visit the Web site, www.toledoblade.com . . . Hearst Newspapers (12, including *Houston Chronicle, Albany Times Union* and *San Francisco Examiner*) seeks applicants for its Journalism **Fellowship** Program. For an application, write to 801 Texas Ave., Houston, TX 77002. Or call (713) 220-7010 . . . The *St. Petersburg Times* seeks a **pop music critic.** Call Nancy Waclawek, (800)333-7505 . . . *The San Francisco Chronicle* seeks **copy editors, business writers,** a **page designer** and public policy, higher education and San Jose bureau **reporters.** Call Marianne Chin, (415) 777-8469 . . . BlackVoices.com seeks a **free-lance writer** to submit a weekly personal finance column geared to women. E-mail Bill LaVerst at blaverst@blackvoices.com . . . The *Kansas City Star* seeks a **night business editor, consumer affairs reporter** and **deputy business editor.** Call Chris Lester, (816) 234-4424 . . . The American Society of Newspaper Editors will have a Minority **Job Fair** in Raleigh, N.C. Oct. 15-17 at the Brownstone Hotel. The Raleigh *News & Observer* is host and co-sponsors are the *Charlotte Observer*, Newspaper Association of America and Triangle Association of Black Journalists. Check out details on the Web site, www.news-observer.com/98joblair

People

The NABJ convention last month in Washington, D.C.was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with or connect for the first time with alumni at the breakfasts, workshops or other activities.

Here's a Roll Call: **Cheryl McCants, '99,** is working for WWOR-TV UPN9 in Greater New York; **Leticia Theodore, '99,** Brooklyn, N.Y.; **Addie Rimmer, '78,** assistant managing editor, *Detroit Free Press;* **Angela Chatman, '77,** business writer, *Cleveland Plain Dealer;* **Jacqueline Metcalfe, '93,** Los Angeles; **Gayle Pollard Terry, '73,** editorial writer, *Los Angeles Times*; **Doxie McCoy, '78,** free-lancer/BET (stopped by and signed in at the Saturday breakfast before joining 10 convention goers who cleaned up a neighborhood recreation park); **E.R. Shipp, '79,** associate professor, GSJ; **Bechetta Jackson, '96,** reporter, Albany *Times Union;* **Jennifer Hill, '78,** Atlanta *Journal-Constitution;* **Marquita Poole Eckert, '69,** CBS News, New York; **Victoria Caldwell**, Brooklyn, N.Y.; **Dorothy Davis-Joseph, '77,** United Nations Development Program, formerly with the African American Institute; **Betty Baye, '80,** editorial writer, *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, Ky.; **Sana Butler,** New York, N.Y.; **Sheryl HilliardTucker, '82,** *Money* magazine; **Marilyn Milloy, '82,** free-lance, Washington, D.C.; **David Dent, '82,** New York University; **Barbara Guiterrez, '80,** managing editor, El Nuevo Herald; **Diann Burns, '81,** anchor, WLS-TV (ABC),Chicago; **Michelle Johnson, '82,** Boston (was directing the student on-line project); **David Thigpen, '80,** reporter, *Time* magazine; **Toni Randolph, '88,** reporter, WBUR-FM, Boston; **Donnette Dunbar, '88,** reporter, *Omaha World-Herald* **Frank Leon McCoy, '86,** senior editor, *U.S. News & World Report;* **Sharon Shervington Thomas, '80,** New York; **Yolanda Joe, '85,** author, *He Say, She Say* and other novels (seen signing books at the Literary Cafe event); **Alison France, '85,** associate editor, office of communications, Ford Foundation; **Dan Holly, '85,** assistant metro editor, Raleigh *News & Observer;* **Evette Porter, '87,** senior editor, *The Village VOICE;* **Roger O. Crockett, '93,** correspondent, *Business Week*, Chicago; **Elizabeth Atkins Bowman, '91,** Detroit, author, *White Chocolate;* (a thriller that explores biracial identity); **Theodore Jones Jr., '58,** free-lance writer, Washington, D.C.; **Olivera Perkins, '87,** reporter, *Cleveland Plain Dealer.*

(Apologies in advance to those we missed – wjd).

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

THANK YOU, August September renewing and new subscribers from New York (6): Boston, Maryland.; and D.C.

J-scholarship

Continued

work for companies that will match charitable donations, providing another way to build the BAN endowment. Please write a dozen letters to potential contributors. Feel free to share personal memories.

I couldn't afford a meal ticket at Johnson Hall during my year and ran out of money toward the end of the school year. My roommate Karen Gray Houston often fed me off of her meal ticket. Lena Williams also shared meals.

> Please write a dozen letters to potential contributors. Feel free to share personal memories.

My favorite professor, Charlayne Hunter Gault, allowed me to eat at her table and Marquita Poole Eckert, J-'69, gave me a research job that allowed me to survive during those last weeks, and buy a Greyhound bus ticket home.

I also had a brother and sister in New York, but other students aren't as lucky.

Please make checks to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and indicate for the BAN Endowment.

If we all help out by donating and soliciting contributions, we can give out our first grant to a deserving black student in the Class of 2000.

Pollard Terry, 1973 Columbia Journalism graduate, is an editorial writer with the Los Angeles Times.

'Naked Acts,'

Continued

revealing than taking her clothes off could ever be.

"I wanted to explore the complex issue in a sensitive yet dramatically compelling way," says Davis, a tenured professor at Baruch College. "I'm glad "Waiting to Exhale" revealed an under served audience to Hollywood, and I'm glad more films are being targeted at us, but I wanted to create a challenging film that reflected the complexity and texture and humanity of black life that goes beyond the simplistic portrayals we usually see."

Some would say she's succeeded. Says Geoffrey Gilmore, director of the Sundance Film Festival: "Naked Acts" takes us places rarely explored by independent filmmakers. It is engaging, smart and fresh storytelling.

The film is featured on the premium cable Sundance Channel; was named Best Feature Film '97 by the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, and was a Best of the Fest selection at the Minneapolis International Film Festival.

Further, Naked Acts has been an official selection at a host of international festivals, traveling to several countries in North and South America, African and Europe.

Advertisers:

The deadline to reserve space is the 15th of the month.

- Eighth page **$75** (two insertions, $125);
- quarter page **$125** (two insertions $200).

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Wayne Dawkins
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Newsletter

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One Year, $20 (12 issues)
Two years, $38 (24 issues)

Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 10
OCTOBER 1998

Survey of journalism employment

Minority job seekers follow traditional routes

Despite the improved job market experienced by 1997 journalism and mass communication graduates, those graduates traditionally labeled as racial and ethnic minorities continue to lag behind other graduates in terms of full employment, reported the Annual Survey of Journalism and Mass Communications Graduates conducted at the University of Georgia in Athens.

Minority graduates generally seek the same types of communication jobs as do other students and are even a bit more likely to seek jobs with traditional journalism employers, such as at daily newspapers and with radio and television stations, wrote authors Lee B. Becker, Gerald M. Kosicki, Lance Porter and David Watson.

Eighteen percent of the 1997 survey sample of bachelors and masters degree graduates at 450 programs were members of racial and ethnic minorities.

The report said that among minority bachelors degree graduates, full-time employment six to eight months after graduation actually was lower than was the case for other graduates.

The full-time employment rate for African-American graduates was 69.5 percent; 68 percent for Hispanics.

Minority graduates however look very much like white graduates in

Continued on back page



WE CAUGHT UP with **Stephanie Esters, '90,** who now covers courts for the *Kalamazoo Gazette* in Michigan. Esters works in the newsroom with **Earlene McMichael Rutherford, '87.** Esters said she and McMichael



Rutherford last summer started a "rising stars in journalism" program at the paper. Seventeen students participated and produced a 12-page insert inside the *Gazette* .

MORE PEOPLE NEWS, page 3

J-scholarship campaign update

ONE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED dollars is in a Columbia University School of Journalism account to build a Black Alumni Network endowment. After alumni raise a minimum $25,000, funds can be disbursed to a student or students.

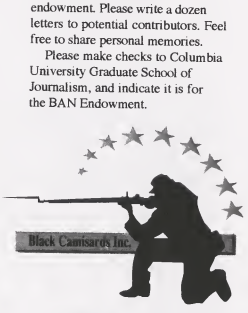
The goal is to give the first grant to a deserving black student in the Class of 2000, which begins September 1999.

The special fund was set up by E.R. Shipp, J-'79. When alumni reach the total, Shipp, with the advice of other black alumni, will set up criteria for disbursement.

A laptop loan program, a project stipend, an emergency fund, a gap award were among the ideas discussed last summer (BAN Newsletter, September).

Anyone can contribute. Alumni, friends, family, classmates, colleagues, co-workers. Many journalists work for companies that will match charitable donations, providing another way to build the BAN endowment. Please write a dozen letters to potential contributors. Feel free to share personal memories.

Please make checks to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and indicate it is for the BAN Endowment.



See **People,** page 3

Deadheading to Portland

Between 1927 and 1932, I worked for Aunt Mary. That was the nickname the black workers gave to the Southern Pacific Railroad. The company was like our aunt. Aunt Mary took care of us, provided our living and gave us jobs.

Thomas C. Fleming
REFLECTIONS ON BLACK HISTORY

At that time, the Southern Pacific was still the biggest private landowner in California. All over the country, the railroads and ships had a monopoly in hauling freight, passengers and mail for long distances. Every rail company had a contract with the government for carrying the mail, and ships flying the American flag got a payment from the government if they carried even one letter.

Many rail companies got their land from the federal government in the 19th century, in the form of land grants. After they raised enough money, they went go to the government, and it granted them the right to build a rail line. The government wanted to develop the country, so it would give the land away, and sometimes money too.

The government granted as much as 20 miles of land alongside the track, on one side at a time in a checkerboard pattern, so that the railroads wouldn't have exclusive control over the adjacent land. The railroads were responsible for most of the towns in California: they sold the land off, encouraging people to come out and settle. That happened all over the West.

The corporate headquarters of the Southern Pacific was in Louisville, Ky. Their tracks never touched anyplace in the state, but Kentucky had the lowest corporate tax of any state in the union. The company held its board meetings there – that was all. A lot of big corporations did that in those days.

One night in 1928, instead of getting the regular three nights at home after arriving back in Oakland, we were given orders to return to the commissary the next morning to stock up the car immediately. Then we were told to remain on the cars, which would be leaving within a few hours, destination unknown. Not expecting to go out again right away, I did not have a razor, a change of underwear or an extra shirt. A switch engine uncoupled our car and pulled it to another track, where the switching crew formed a train. Soon there were 12 dining cars, six club cars, and six observation cars all coupled together, each fully stocked. Then a big locomotive slowly pulled us out of the assembly yard.

We heard that the train would deadhead to Portland, Ore. with just the crews and no passengers. "Deadhead" means to go directly from one point to another, with no stops except to change the operational crew, who were always white men. Almost everyone else on board – the porters, cooks and waiters – were black men. We had a full day and a half of travel, in which all we had to do was walk from one car to another exchanging gossip. We only had to prepare meals for the crews, which usually required just one cook. As the train rolled through Northern California, I spent most of the afternoon sitting on the platform of the last observation car of the long train, reading newspapers and watching the scenery.

At Gerber, about 200 miles north of Oakland, the train halted long enough for a second locomotive to be added as a "helper hog," as we started climbing into the mountains. The engineer, fireman, conductor, and brakemen made their departure, and were replaced by another crew to operate the train. After the usual inspection of all of the cars, the train began to move for Mount Shasta City, at the base of Mount Shasta. This was a regular stop of the Southern Pacific during daylight hours, when passengers would get off and drink the clear, naturally carbonated water from the springs. The kitchen crew always scooped up a gallon or so in some storage cans. It would be hot as hell in the kitchen, and you were glad when you could go out with one of those cans and fill it up with that ice-cold water. We added sugar to it, making the most delicious cream soda I have ever consumed.

A short time later, the train crossed over into Oregon, which I thought was very beautiful. Everything was so green; trees and other vegetation grew so lushly in that state. It was a remarkable contrast, because after June, just about everything in California turned brown, because there was so little rain, while in Oregon, it rains during the summer months.

When the train reached Portland the next afternoon, new trains were made up, with Pullman sleeping cars, an observation car, club car, and two dining cars in each of the new formations. The trains filled up with Shriners, who were holding their national convention in Los Angeles.

At 90, Fleming continues to write each week for the Sun-Reporter, San Francisco's African American weekly, which he co-founded in 1944.

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Jobline

The News-Sentinel, a Knight Ridder newspaper in Fort Wayne, Ind., seeks an energetic **editor** to copy edit and lay out business pages and sections. The job responsibilities include: serve as point person for Business Department in absence of Business Editor; chose stories and art; assign local art and contribute local story ideas; lay out some tab and broadsheet pages; confer with Design Department on others; edit

The News SENTINEL

for content, style, clarity on business copy and assist Copy Desk as needed; proof or fact-check graphics; write short stories, digest items and other content; use SAVE, photo library and Web for research, use Quark Xpress to lay out and/or paginate. Contact Managing Editor Carolyn DiPaolo, *The News-Sentinel,* 600 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. . . Baruch College of the City University of New York seeks a Tenure Track **Assistant Professor** English/ Business Journalism. Begins **Feb. 1, 1999.** Teach undergraduate and graduate courses and serve as adviser to student publications. Salary range $40,440 to $52,213, depending on qualifications and experience. Candidates who hold a master's degree and have a publication record are urged to apply. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation and publication samples by **Nov. 10** to professor John Todd, chairman, Department of English, Baruch

the village VOICE

College, Box G-0732, 17 Lexington Ave, New York, N.Y. 10010. . . *The Village VOICE* is looking for a **senior editor** who can edit columnists and features. The editor must be familiar with media and technology subjects. Send cover letter and resume to Doug Simmons, managing editor, The Village VOICE, 36 Cooper Square, New York, N.Y. 10003-7118.

People

Marvin V. Greene, '85, has been busy promoting Black Camisards, Inc., a company that markets Civil War art and collectibles. The Columbia, Md.-based company celebrated its first birthday this month. It has a web site, www.blackcamisards.com and a toll-free information line, (800) 989-1170. Black Camisards' aim is accentuate the legacy of more than 178,000 Colored Troops who participated in the War. The United States Colored Troops was officially recognized for the first time nationally as a vital contributor to American history and lore with the dedication of a memorial in Washington, D.C. last July. Black Camisards derived its name from the French. Camisards were Protestant insurgents of the Cevennes mountain region who rebelled in 1702 against King Louis XIV seeking restoration of their civil rights. The peasants were called Camisards because of the black smocks they wore during night raids . . . **Valerie Wilson Wesley, '82,** has published a new book, *Easier to Kill* (Penguin-Putnam) and her other Tamara Hayle mysteries, *When Death Comes Stealing, Devil's Gonna Get Him, Where Evil Sleeps* and *No Hiding Place* are all in paperback. Wilson Wesley told us she is working on a mainstream love story that is due out in 1999 and after that she will be concentrating on her sixth Tamara Hayle mystery. She says she'd love to her from you. E-mail her at valwilwes@aol.com or visit her website, www.TamaraHayle.com.



Vanessa K. Bush, '97, is a senior writer at *LIFE* magazine in New York City. . . **Betty Winston Baye, '80,** received a Woman of Vision award in August from the National Coun-cil of Negro Women, Louisville section. Also that month Baye participated in a Celebration of Writing workshop in the Low Country, Beaufort, S.C. . . . IRONY. The same July week the 33rd Race Relations Institute convened in Nashville, Tenn., to engage in the difficult process of interracial conversation about intolerance, wrote **Jill Nelson,**

Continued on back page

American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) and Newspaper Association of America (NAA) Minority

JOB FAIR

For Business and Newsroom Internships and Jobs

Oct. 15-17 at the Brownstone Hotel. The Raleigh *News & Observer* is host and co-sponsors are the Charlotte *Observer,* Newspaper Association of America and Triangle Association of Black Journalists. Check out details on the Web site, www.news-observer.com/98jobfair

THANK YOU, September renewing and new subscribers from New York and Louisville, Ky.

DOW JONES

DJNF

NEWSPAPER FUND INC.

PRINCETON, N.J. – Newspapers, online publications and news services can elect now to hire 1999 summer interns through the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's internship programs for sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students. Applications are available on college campuses and by contacting the Newspaper Fund.

The Fund expects to recruit **120 interns** as newspaper copy editors, online editors and real-time financial newswires editors for the summer of 1999/ Twelve internships will be offered to minority college sophomores and juniors who will work as business reporters at daily newspapers. The Fund conducts an intensive nationwide search for bright, literate students pursuing all majors including journalism and mass communication as well as business. Pre-internship training and follow-up visits are the hallmarks of Fund internship programs. The aim is to bring students into a newsroom equipped to perform and primed to learn. Application forms are available on campuses and from the Fund through **Nov. 1.** The application deadline for all programs is **Nov. 16.** Each program offers a $1,000 scholarship to students returning to college or graduate school full-time after their internships. Newspaper editors may request an intern by completing an enrollment form, calling the fund at (609)452-2820 or by sending an e-mail message to newsfund@wsj.dowjones.com. Program information also is available on the Fund's web site: www.dowjones.com/newsfund/college.html

Journalism survey

Continued

terms of actually seeking jobs in the communication field.

Minorities were at least as likely – if not more likely – to seek jobs

• Minorities working in daily newspaper newsrooms: 11.5%

• U.S. Minority population at large: 28%

• 1997 Minority Bachelors degree grads, 23%; Masters degree grads, 18%

• Women made up 66.3 percent of respondents.

with daily newspapers, radio, television and cable. When the employment rates of those who sought jobs in the daily newspaper industry are compared with white graduates who sought such jobs, the gap between the rate of full-time employment for the two groups increases (66 percent for minorities, 84 percent for whites).

The same can be said of the television industry, though the gap between the rate of full-time employment of minorities who sought television jobs and of whites is lower.

The study was released in August. It can be accessed online at:

www.grady.uga.edu/annualsurveys/

MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

People

Continued

'80, in an MSNBC commentary, others in that city were celebrating a statue of Confederate General Nathan Beüford Forrest, founder of the Kuklos Klan, which became the Ku Klux Klan. Nelson wrote, "There is something profoundly unsettling and downright frightening about the fact that two steps from the millennium we're still celebrating the losers of the Confederacy, still late in in honoring the black soldiers who fought for the winning Union, and still struggling to talk about race in a coherent, civilized fashion."

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

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Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 11
NOVEMBER 1998

Back to high school to grow journalists

Alumna coordinates newspaper project

By **Angela Chatman**

In January of this year, Dorothy Gilliam, '61, turned away from the twice-weekly column she had written for the Washington Post for 17 years to take on the job of cultivating young minority journalists for the newspaper.

As director of the Young Journalists Development Project for *The Washington Post* newsroom, Gilliam spearheads an effort to identify and train young people in the Washington metropolitan area who show potential as journalists.

"The idea of giving up a column was not easy. It was almost as though for me it was the next stage of growth," said Gilliam, who has worked for *The Washington Post* for 25 years, first as a reporter, editor and then a columnist.

Gilliam developed the proposal for the project, although she originally did not commit to running it. "But, I really, really realized that if this was going to get done, it was going to have to get done by somebody who

Continued on next page

Spirit awards honor legacy of entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS – On Saturday, Nov. 7, the Madame C.J. Walker Theatre Center will honor national, regional and local entrepreneurs who have made valuable contributions to their communities.

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be the Madame Walker Entrepreneurial Institute, a series of workshops on women's empowerment and business development for youth at University Place Conference Center and Hotel. Guest speakers include Terrie M. Williams; author Cheryl Broussard and Joline Godfrey.

The Spirit Awards Gala is 8 p.m. in the Madame Walker Theatre. It will feature former super model and entrepreneur B. Smith.

A'Lelia Bundles, J-'76, is national chairwoman of the Indianapolis Legacy Committee putting on the event. Bundles is



A'Lelia Bundles, J-'76

the great-great granddaughter of Madame C.J. Walker, America's first self-made woman millionaire, who provided opportunities for self-reliance and self-actualization for thousands of people.

General admission gala tickets are $50; workshops $30; workshops and luncheon with Terrie Williams $40. Checks payable to Madame Walker Theatre Center, 617 Indiana Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Civil rights coverage forum

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in cooperation with the Libel Defense Resource Center presents "A Look Back: How Journalists Covered the Civil Rights Movement," Thursday, Nov. 12, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the third floor Lecture Hall, 116th Street and Broadway, New York City.

U.S. Rep. **John Lewis,** D-Ga., former national chairman of SNCC (the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee), is the keynote speaker.

The moderator is **David Halberstam,** former reporter with the Nashville *Tennessean* and *New York Times* and author of *The Children.*

The panelists are:

- **Karl Fleming,** president, Prime Time Communications and former reporter with the *Atlanta Constitution* and *Newsweek.*
- **Reuven Frank,** past president of ABC News and former executive producer of the Huntley-Brinkley Report.
- **Phyllis Garland,** professor of journalism, Columbia University, former reporter, *Pittsburgh Courier* and *Ebony.*

Continued on page 3

Growing journalists

Continued

really cared," she said.

Armed with the full resources of *The Washington Post*, Gilliam now coordinates an effort that brings high school students into a newspaper project that could set them on the path to careers in the field of journalism.

At a time when the American Society of Newspaper Editors has acknowledged that it will not reach its original goal of parity of the nation's minority population in its newsrooms by the year 2000, the Washington Post is seeking another way to reach parity in its newsroom.

ASNE reports only 11.6 percent minorities in U.S. newsrooms.

The Washington metropolitan area is 30 percent minority, says Gilliam. About 17 percent of the *Post's* more than 500 professionals are people of color, according to Milton Coleman, deputy managing editor and Gilliam's superior. "What we're doing is very, very, very long range recruiting," said Coleman.

Gilliam, president of the National Association of Black Journalists in 1993-95, has worked with students before, through her participation in the Urban Journalism Workshop sponsored by the Washington Association of Black Journalists. That, too, has had support from *The Washington Post* over the years.

The impetus for the long-term recruitment project stemmed from an educational program Gilliam proposed after a four-month sabbatical at Harvard University in the fall of 1996.

At first, Gilliam coordinated a program for students at the University of Maryland and Howard University.

Washington Post reporters and editors taught for a semester at each of those schools.

The program encompassed 14 different topic areas, from visual journalism to reporting. During the 1997-98 school year, the project moved into Washington-area high schools.

"We had an intense partnership with



Dorothy Butler Gilliam

our high schools last year," said Gilliam.

For the high schools involved, the partnership provided the only opportunity for students to work on a school newspaper.

"High school newspapers are becoming an endangered species in America," said Gilliam, noting that few schools in the district area have newspapers. Printing costs have become prohibitive.

"Most of us got our start on high school newspapers. If those aren't being printed, where are the journalists, especially minority journalists, going to come from?" she said.

Though the young journalists' project, students at partner high schools work on and publish two newspapers. The printing is done at *The Washington Post*.

"They took all the pictures, wrote all the stories," she said. Gilliam also has initiated a student printing project, so that students

Continued on back page

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To order August Press titles *Black Journalists: The NABJ Story* by Wayne Dawkins and *Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight: The Story of the Spaniels* by Richard G. Carter.

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Attitude is Everything

Sometimes You Get the Bear, a forthcoming novel by **Dan Holly, J-'85,** involves two brothers who experience a series of ups and downs over a two-year period, and end up learning a lot about themselves and life.

Brothers Steve and Chris Holland have a reversal of fortunes because of the violent but accidental death of a Columbia University student who is the son of a gubernatorial candidate.

To read excerpts, place an order and find out how a reader can win $500, visit the web site for *Sometimes You Get the Bear* at:

http://members.aol.com/dholly2/getthebear-index.html

Publication date: December
$14, August Press.
Order in advance and save 25 percent. (800) 268-4338

Jobline

The Village VOICE is looking for a **senior editor/music.** The editor must be knowledgeable in the field and experienced in assigning and editing reviews and features as well as administering all aspects of the arts section. Send cover letter and resume to Doug Simmons, managing editor, The Village VOICE, 36 Cooper Square, New York, N.Y. 10003-7118.Towson University seeks appli-cations for a tenure-track, entry-level **assistant professor** in the Department of Mass Communication and Communi-cation Studies beginning Fall 1999. Responsibilities include teaching, advising students, engaging in scholarly activities, and serving on department committees. Main area of teaching will be mass communication theory and research. Ph.D. required (ABD will be considered at instructor rank). Evidence of teaching excellence and scholarly research is required. Salary commensurate with entry-level experience. Evaluation of completed applications begins Nov. 10. Send letter, graduate transcript and three letters of recommendation to: Ronald J. Matlon, Ph.D., Department of Mass Communi-cation and Communication Studies, Towson University 8000 York Road Towson, MD 21252

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

People

Ken M. Jones, `81,** is a volunteer doing research, position papers and ghostwriting for Wayne County (Detroit area) Neighborhood Legal Services. . . ."The Betty Baye Show" began its fourth season in Louisville, Ky. "We're stretching out too," said **Baye, `80, an editorial writer and columnist at *The Courier-Journal*. "The show has been picked up by the cable station down in Bowling Green, which is close to Nashville. My second show of the new season will feature John Lewis – we taped him during the



Ken M. Jones

summer when he was here on tour with his book, *Walking in the Wind.*" . . . In an October ombudsman column, **E.R. Shipp, `79,** of *The Washington Post,* noted her bewilderment with "HOV Lane" signs as a newcomer. She eventually learned HOV meant "High Occupancy Vehicles." She used the episode to urge journalists to explain themselves better: "A newspaper should welcome those in the know, yet it should not discourage casual readers or new readers of the type sought in the Newspaper of Association of America's current campaign to woo children and adults. . .At *The Washington Post,* a staff of highly educated reporters and editors toils on behalf of the most sophisticated readerships imaginable. Sometimes we forget however, that everyone is not savvy in the same way, and those of you motivated to act upon what you read require specifics."

– Let us know what you are doing and when you move. Send items and photos.

Civil rights coverage

Continued

• **Vernon Jarrett,** producer/ host, Sunday in Chicago with Vernon Jarrett, former reporter, *Chicago Defender, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times.*

• **Jack Nelson,** Washington bureau chief, *Los Angeles Times,* former reporter, *Atlanta Constitution.*

RSVP, (212)854-4130 or e-mail tanyamohn@aol.com



Betty Winston Baye

I-200 vote,

At press time it was two days before the Tuesday Nov. 3 vote in Washington State on **Initiative 200.** If approved, it would eliminate affirmative action in public and higher education programs. The final vote could decide whether the scheduled Unity convention in Seattle July 7-11 with NABJ, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, Aaian American Journalists Association and the Native American Press Association will go on.

Critics critiqued at fall J-meeting

The annual fall meeting of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Alumni Association is "A Tribute to Judith Crist, J-'45: Do Critics Affect the Arts They Critique?"

Crist has been a critic and adjunct faculty member for 40 years. The panel and salute is 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 in the third floor lecture hall. 116th Streeí and Broadway, New York City.

Panelists include Margo Jefferson, J-'71, critic at large, The New York Times; John Leonard, critic, New York Magazine, and cultural commentator, CBS Sunday Morning. The moderator is Anna Kisselgoff, J-'62, chief dance critic, The New York Times.

RSVP, (212) 854-3864 or e-mail alumni@jrn.columbia.edu

Growing journalists

Continued

can print the newspapers themselves. Printing is the most expensive part of the production process.

Some of the start-up funds for the project came from the American Society of Newspaper Editors, which provided $2,500 in equipment.

"The real money basically comes from the *Post* and a lot of it is in the manpower," she said.

Gilliam's focus now is to expand the project to reach more students. Another goal is to establish a four-year, *Washington Post* scholarship for potential *Post* reporters.

"My thought is that they become interns and they become reporters," she said. "I think it's a project that could expand beyond the *Post*. The question is whether or not I'll be able to carry it beyond the Post newspaper."

It took time, but Gilliam's desire to see the young journalists project established convinced her that giving up the column was the right thing to do. She said "I think, personally and even professionally, it was the right thing at the right time."

The writer a 1977 Columbia journalism graduate, is a reporter with the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NABJ

New location

The National Association of Black Journalists headquarters has a new address:

8701-A Adelphi Road
Adelphi, MD 20783-1716
Tel: (301) 445-7100
Fax: (301) 445-7101
e-mail nabj@nabj.org
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Trotter Group columnists

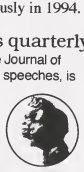
The William Monroe Trotter Group, about three dozen African-American newspaper columnists, are meeting at Stanford University Nov. 8-10. Angela Davis and Ishamel Reed are scheduled presenters.

Also scheduled is a discussion of Patricia Smith and Mike Barnacle incidents at *The Boston Globe*. There is also expected to be a public panel on Bill Clinton and African-Americans.

The Trotter Group began meeting in 1992. It met in Stanford previously in 1994.

Vital Issues quarterly

Vital Issues: The Journal of African American speeches, is published quarterly by The Bethune-DuBois Institute, Inc., in Silver Spring, Md.



Phone (301)562-8300 or fax (301)562-8303 for subscription information.

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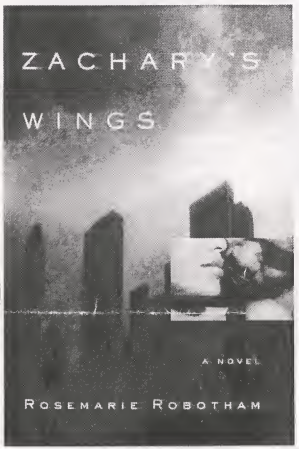
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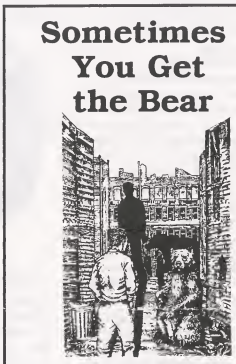
*** Season's Greetings ***

Black Alumni Network
Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 12
DECEMBER 1998



Holiday reading



J-alumni literary gifts for the season

By **Wayne Dawkins**

Columbia University Journalism alumni are writing books.

Some were just published, some are about to be released early in 1999.

Since it is the peak gift-giving season, we are calling attention to authors' works and encouraging people to support their efforts.

Rosemary Robotham, '80, is author of *Zachary's Wings* (Scribner, $22), her first novel. It is a tender, seductive love story about a perceptive young social worker and Korie, the enigmatic reporter who draws him to the restless stream of her life.

Robotham is an editor with *Essence* magazine and before that, she was a staff reporter with *Life* magazine.

Zachary's Wings is a December BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB selection.

Robotham's colleague at *Essence*, contributing editor **Valerie Wilson Wesley, '82,** continues to wow fans with stories about the street-smart, sexy and spunky sleuth, Tamara Hayle.

Easier to Kill (Putnam, $23.95) is Wilson Wesley's fifth mystery in the Tamara Hayle series.

Her previous book, *Where Evil Sleeps* was released in September as a mass-market paperback (Avon, $6.99).

"I see a flourishing career for Tamara Hayle. She has a way

Continued on back page

Trotter report

Opinion writers convene

By **Betty Winston Baye**

The sixth meeting of the Trotter Group at Stanford University Nov. 8-10 was jam packed with notable guests, column-writing tips and information generally useful to the 30 African-American opinion writers who attended.

Highlights this year included:

• A frank discussion of how *The Boston Globe* approached the sins committed by two of its most popular columnists, one black, Patricia Smith, and one white, Mike Barnicle;

• A provocative panel on the power of language led by Ishmael Reed; John Rickford and Arnold Rampersad;

• Former Reagan and Bush administration appointee, Condoleezza Rice, who discussed "American Foreign Policy in the 20th Century;"

• "A post-election critique," with emphasis on the politics of affirmative action led by Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights;

• Angela Davis discussing "Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex;"

• A very useful session, "Preparing columnists for TV appearances," conducted by Jack D. Hubbard of the Stanford News Service;

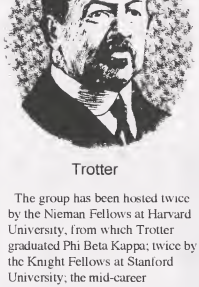
• And a well-attended Trotter public forum at Stanford's Annenberg Auditorium on "Why African-Americans are Bill Clinton's Bridge Over Troubled Waters."

The Trotters also welcomed for the second time a niece and other descendants of William Monroe Trotter (1872-1934).

Trotter was an unabashed and unrepentant enemy of racism. When he founded *The Guardian* newspaper in Boston in 1901, he was candid in defining it as "propaganda against discrimination."

In 1905, Trotter, with W.E.B. DuBois, were founders of the Niagara Movement. Trotter opted out, however, when the movement evolved into the NAACP. Trotter's stance was that the NAACP was too moderate for his tastes.

The Trotter Group is a loosely configured think tank conceived by Derrick Jackson of *The Boston Globe*, DeWayne Wickham of USA TODAY and Les Payne of *Newsday*, who serve as meeting conveners.



Trotter

The group has been hosted twice by the Nieman Fellows at Harvard University, from which Trotter graduated Phi Beta Kappa; twice by the Knight Fellows at Stanford University; the mid-career journalism fellowship program at the university of Michigan, and by the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla.

In its short lifespan, delegations of Trotter Group members have twice met privately at the White House with President Clinton. From time-to-time, members have participated in exclusive on-the-record conference call interviews, such as the one with Labor Secretary Alexis Herman after she was identified as the subject of an independent counsel investigation. There's talk of Trotter delegations visiting African heads of state and Cuba, where participants will hopefully be granted a private interview with Fidel Castro.

The Trotters have no dues, no membership lists and no hierarchy. It exists to provide African-American opinion writers critiques of their work, access to political leaders and public intellectuals who can be excellent sources for their columns, and to provide participants research and travel opportunities that may not be accorded to them in the normal routines of their jobs.

That the Trotter Group is a without a bureaucracy is what makes its meetings so dynamic. The gatherings are open to the first 30 opinion writers who sign up, pay a fee to help underwrite expenses, and who can pay (or have their employers pay) their travel expenses. Lodging and most meals have historically been underwritten.

While there is a core group of writers who've attended every session, the fact that others come and go contributes to the group's energy. Trotters are not all of one mind, and while participants' varying points of view are likely to be vigorously debated, all views are welcomed.

A time well may come when for the purposes of continuity of business, meeting planning and production of the Trotter's column collections, there may have to be a formal structure.

However, most Trotters seem to enjoy the meetings just as they are.

The writer, a 1980 Columbia Journalism graduate, is an editorial writer with The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky.

MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

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The application deadline is February 1, 1999.
For a brochure and application form, write, phone, fax or e-mail to:
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Fax: (650)725-6154
e-mail:
knightfellow@forsythe.stanford.edu

A Pew Center for Civic Journalism Workshop

Civic Journalism: New Dimensions in '99
January 8-10, 1999, Miami, Fla.
Spaces are limited
Who: Eligible are print working and broadcast journalists
Where: Miami Airport Hilton and Towers
How: To register call the Pew Center: (202) 331-3200 by Dec. 18
Registration fee: $50; $40 for RTNDA members

Jobline

City Limits, a 23-year-old award-winning magazine with a tradition of muckraking and investigative reporting, seeks a senior editor. City Limits covers the government agencies, politicians and community groups that affect New York City's low-income and minority neighborhoods. The ideal candidate will have at least two to three years of experience in reporting and/or editing and will enjoy working in an aggressive, deadline-oriented environment. Send cover letter, resume and three clips to: Carl Vogel, editor, City Limits
120 Wall St., 20th floor
New York, NY 10005
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Get the Bear

http://members.aol.com/dholly2/getthebear-index.html

Editor's group seeks diversity director

RESTON, Va. – The American Society of Newspaper Editors launched a nationwide search to fill the position of diversity director.

Veronica Jennings, the current diversity director, has accepted a position with Times Mirror and *Newsday*.

Jennings has worked in the ASNE position for more than four years.

Candidates for the ASNE diversity director position must have experience at a daily newspaper and a background in newsroom diversity, said Lee Stinnett, ASNE executive director.

In terms of funds spent, newsroom diversity is ASNE's single largest undertaking. More than $375,000 is channeled into ASNE diversity projects each year. "Driving the quest for newsroom diversity" is a priority in the Society's mission statement and ASNE has taken a leading role in this area for two decades.

The ASNE diversity director reports to the ASNE executive director.

Among the responsibilities of the position are:
- Administering core programs intended to increase the flow of racial and ethnic minorities into the nation's newsrooms.
- Working with the ASNE leadership to articulate the case for newsroom diversity and supporting ASNE's Diversity Committee.
- Generating written materials to help editors manage diversity in the newsroom.

The ASNE Web site includes these documents that will be of interest to job candidates:
- Diversity director job description.
- Current diversity initiatives.
- The recently adopted newsroom ASNE diversity mission statement.

Members and other friends of ASNE are urged to forward the names of potential candidates to Executive Director Stinnett via e-mail at stinnett@asne.org or conventional mail at ASNE, 11690B Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191-1409. Fax: (703) 453-1133.

The deadline for applications is Dec. 31.

THANK YOU,
November renewing and new subscribers from New York (2); Oakland; Alton, Ill.; Chicagoland; Hammond, Ind. and Washington, D.C.

Literary

Continued from front page

with a wisecrack that is positively lethal," noted *The Washington Post Book World.*

Sometimes You Get the Bear by **Dan Holly, `85,** (August Press, $14) is a novel built around a moral: Attitude is everything.

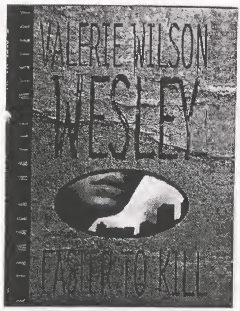
Brothers Steve and Chris experience a series of ups and downs over a two-year period including the death of politically connected Columbia University student that launches a manhunt. The story moves swiftly that from New York to New Jersey, Los Angeles, Detroit and Miami.

Holly, who has worked his newspaper career in most of those venues, is now an editor at the *News & Observer* in Raleigh, N.C.

A few alumni are finishing novels and biographies.

Watch out for them sometime in 1999 or at the start of 2000.

OTHER ALUMNI have published books in the last year or two. They include, **Jill Nelson, `80,** *Straight No Chaser: How I Became a Grown-up Black Woman* (Putnam, $23.95); **Yolanda Joe, `85,** *Bebe's By Golly Wow* (Doubleday, $22.95); **Elizabeth Atkins Bowman, `91,** White Chocolate (Forge, $23.95); **Ken Maurice Jones, `81,** *Spike Lee and African American Filmmakers: A Choice of Colors* (Milbrook Press, $23.90) ; instead of a children's book, **Donnette Dunbar, `88,** created *Island Girl,* an interactive CD-ROM with 20 minutes of original music and 20 minutes of animation (Alternet Communications) ; **James McBride, `88,** has continued to have best-selling success with his 1996 biography, *The Color of Water* (Riverhead Books).



The writer, a 1980 Columbia Journalism graduate, owns August Press in Newport News, VA

People

In October, **Frank McCoy, `86,** was appointed deputy editor at *U.S. News & World Report.* Previously, he was a senior editor of the ``Business in Brief'' section. In his new position, he is responsible for the editorial content of the magazine's web site at **www.usnews.com** . He supervises an editorial team creating web content to supplement the magazine's stories. McCoy joined USN&*WR* in March 1998. Since 1995, every Thursday at 11 P.M. EST, he has also been the host of ``NetNoir Busine$$ Chat with Frank McCoy'' on America Online (Keyword: NetNoir) . . . **Donnette Dunbar, '88,** says she received a semi-promotion, to Lifestyle Team Leader at the Omaha *World-Herald* (233,000 circulation), responsible for four reporters who write about issues relating to young people in their 20s and 30s as well as serve as a feature writer for living section.

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